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RATEKIN'S

1884

28TH
YEAR

1912



SEED BOOK 1912

SATISFACTION
GUARANTEED
OR
MONEY
BACK

RATEKIN'S
NEW MAMMOTH
IOWA YELLOW
DENT.

FOR DESCRIPTION
AND PRICES
SEE FOLIOS 13 & 14

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

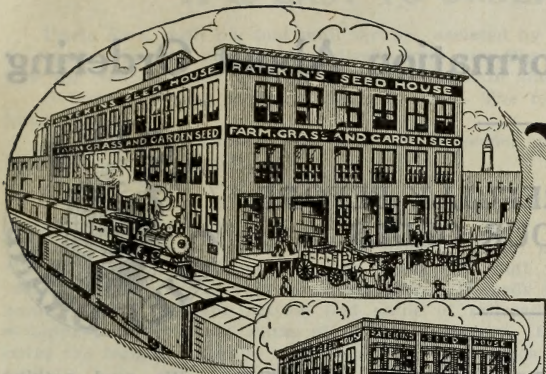
SHENANDOAH, IOWA.

LARGEST SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST.

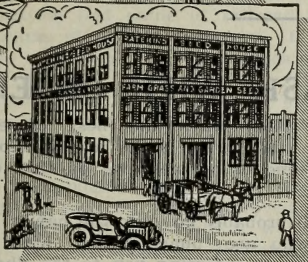
1884—GREETINGS—1912



Good Seeds the Key to the Harvest.
J. M. Kistner



WAREHOUSE AND
PACKING DEPARTMENT
VALLEY AND GRAIN ST.



GENERAL OFFICE, ELM AND VALLEY ST.

GOOD SEEDS

The Key to The Harvest

To Our Friends and Customers:

Twenty-eight years have passed since our first seed catalogue was issued in 1884. It contained but four pages, 6x9, but we did a good business from the start. I was born and reared on a farm, and prior to my engaging in the seed business was educated by practical farm experience to believe there was as much or more to the farmer by planting pure pedigreed seeds than there is in breeding pedigreed live stock, and that the basic principle of sending out good seeds to our customers would prove an asset to our business in future years, which has proven true. **THE BEST HAS NEVER BEEN TOO GOOD FOR OUR CUSTOMERS.** In this we believe we build right on a solid foundation, for our trade and business during these years has increased year by year to an extent that we have been compelled to build, rebuild and enlarge our facilities until now we have the most commodious quarters, where we have installed our specially built Cleaning and Grading Machinery, not only for cleaning and grading grain, but grasses and clovers. Thus all our seeds are brought to the highest standards of excellence.

These improvements and enlargements have cost us an enormous sum of money, but it enables us to give prompt and satisfactory service to our customers and to take care of a greater volume of business.

We appreciate that it is impossible for all who receive this catalogue to come to Shenandoah or personally visit our Seed House and see what we are really doing in the way of seed improvement and the manner of preparation of our seeds, but to those that live in reach or that may be passing this way we extend a cordial invitation to call and see us. Our doors stand ajar to you.

I am sure we can make it to your advantage to order and buy your Farm, Field, Grass, Garden and Flower Seeds from us. In more than 50,000 towns, villages, railroad stations, express offices and postoffices in the United States—in every state in the Union, we have pleased customers who have saved and made money by planting and sowing our seeds during the past twenty-eight years.

COMMON SENSE TEACHES—Seeds, like humans, are full of life, some vigorous, some frail, but the development that seeds attain—like human life—depends first upon the origination and then upon the conditions and the manner in which they are cultured. We, with our twenty-eight years' experience in the seed business, have given a most careful study to the vitality and quality of seeds. We understand thoroughly every merit connected with the different varieties and their every fault, and have completely mastered every principle of seed growing, cleaning and grading.

A WORD OF WARNING—The drouth the past season has been very extended and has damaged most all grain and vegetable crops to a greater extent than any previous year we have any knowledge of. The long continued dry spell in many places literally burned them up and they did not mature properly for seed; therefore if care is not exercised in your seed selections for the coming year, it will mean a loss of thousands of dollars throughout the country.

OUR OBJECT—In Compiling the next few pages is to place before the general public and the farmers in particular, the essentials so necessary to the successful growing of better crops and bigger yields, and we invite your close attention and inspection of what we have said and suggested. They are plain facts briefly stated, and we believe you will find them full of information.

ADVANTAGES IN ORDERING YOUR SEEDS FROM US—We have every known advantage in climate, soil and latitude for producing more kinds and varieties of farm seeds of the most hardy, rugged character to be found in any other one spot in the world. We have the experience and every facility. Our seeds are grown directly under our supervision. Iowa grown seeds means everything to the planter. It means earliness, hardness and productiveness, and in case of drouth what is still better, our seeds withstand unfavorable conditions that southern grown seeds do not, and mature much earlier and more perfectly.

WE HAVE TRIED TO MAKE EVERYTHING PLAIN in this catalogue, but maybe there are some further questions you would like to ask. If so, don't hesitate to write us. We will gladly answer them if possible, and will be pleased to give you any further information we can.

WE WANT YOUR TRADE AND YOUR BUSINESS—Here is our catalogue. Look it over, and if favored with your orders, large or small, we will try to merit your confidence and treat you in a manner that will please you.

Very truly yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

By

J. M. Ratekin
Manager.

Our Terms and General Information About Ordering



**PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE
SENDING IN YOUR ORDER.**



OUR TERMS ARE STRICTLY CASH WITH ORDER.

We send nothing C. O. D. Every item entering into the Seed Business is spot cash. Cash buys the best of everything. When cost of seed, postage and other necessary expense is paid, good, high grade seeds are sold on a very small margin. It's not the big profits on a single order, but the large volume of business we do that enables us to make you bargain prices and give you the most for your money.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY:

As this book will probably go into the hands of hundreds and thousands of people who are unacquainted with us, this question will naturally arise, and in answer to the same we take pleasure in referring you to the Shenandoah National Bank, The Security Trust and Savings Bank, the Mayor, Postmaster, Adams or Wells-Fargo Express Agents, or any business house or any other person whatsoever in this city.

WHAT WE GUARANTEE:

That all money sent to us for seeds shall reach us if sent us by registered letter, postoffice or express money order, or bank draft made payable to our order, or your personal check if you have the money back of it to make it good. That your orders will be filled promptly and with care. Keep a copy of your order. Sometimes people think they have ordered articles which they have omitted, and blame us for not sending them. Please be careful to sign your name, postoffice, state and rural route plainly.

ABOUT WARRANTING:

We thoroughly test all our seeds and nothing is sent out which we do not believe to be of good strong germination and that will grow good under any reasonable conditions; still crops are contingent upon so many conditions, etc., over which we have no control, including soil, weather, time and manner of planting, cultivation etc., that we cannot be responsible for the product and give no warranty, expressed or implied as to description, quality, quantity or productiveness of any seed sent out by us, and every order for seeds named in this catalog will be executed on these conditions only, and if the purchaser does not accept the seeds on these terms and conditions they are to be returned within 10 days from the time received. This gives ample time for inspection and testing as to vitality. It, however, must be plain to everyone who gives the matter the slightest thought that it is to our best interest to send out only such seed stock as will not only grow, but prove true to name and description.

WHAT WE PREPAY POSTAGE ON:

We pay postage or express charges on all vegetable, flower and other seeds quoted by packet, ounce or pound; one-half pint, pint and quart, and guarantee safe delivery at any postoffice in the United States. If such seeds, however, are to be sent inside of a sack of heavy field seeds to go by express or freight at expense of purchaser, you may deduct at the rate of 8 cents per pound from regular catalog price for any vegetable or flower seeds contained in the order.

CHARGES NOT PREPAID.

All seeds sold by peck or bushel or other than pound prices, including Farm, Field and Grass Seeds, etc., are sent by freight or express, as may be directed, at purchaser's expense. Boxes and bags are free with all shipments of Seed Corn, Oats, Barley, Speltz and other grain. But sacks for grass seeds add 20 cents extra for each bag. Ear corn, 70 lbs. per bushel; shelled corn, 56 lbs. per bushel.

DELIVERY.

The point of delivery of all heavy goods is on cars at Shenandoah. When we quote a delivered price at your station, it means we prepay the freight or express charges.

PREPAID STATIONS.

Many of our customers live at points known as prepaid stations, where there is no agent. In such cases you should always send money enough to prepay freight charges through to such points, otherwise we will ship to nearest station where there is an agent.

SMALL ORDERS.

It matters not what you want in the seed line, nor how large or small your order, even only one packet, we shall be glad to hear from you, and it will have our prompt and best attention and we will otherwise try to serve you in a manner that will please you.

MARKET GARDENERS

and others who buy vegetable and flower seeds in bulk to amount of \$5.00 or over are requested to make out a list of their wants and requirements and send them in when we will make them our lowest special prices on large orders. In short, we want to hear from every one who receives this book and you may always depend upon receiving the most courteous treatment.

IT IS EASY TO ORDER YOUR SEEDS FROM US.

Uncle Sam, with his fast mail service, assisted by the express companies and fast freight transportation service, makes it very easy to buy direct from our Big Seed House, and we have made it just as easy as we know how for you to order what you want or need in the seed line from us.

Ordering by mail is not a difficult task. The following points are sufficient ninety-nine times out of a hundred:

- 1st. Take our catalog and select your seeds, using our blank order sheet if you have one. If not, any kind of plain paper will do.
- 2d. Give name and price of each article.
- 3d. Write your full name and postoffice address plainly, as well as shipping point if different from your postoffice.
- 4th. If seeds are to be sent by packet, ounce, pound, pint or quart, we prepay all postage or express charges, and you will receive your seeds sent that way within three or four days to a week from the time you mail your order at your home postoffice. If seeds are to be sent by freight or express at our expense, give name of your shipping station and name of railroad. If seeds are to be sent by express, give name of your shipping point and also name of express company. If there is no freight agent at your station, remit extra to cover the freight. Always send plenty to pay charges and if any is left we will return excess promptly by first mail.
- 5th. Enclose Postoffice Money Order, Express Money Order, Bank Draft or send money by Registered Letter. If you have money in the bank and not convenient to send remittance as stated, send your personal check. We like to do business with those who have a bank account as well as those who are trying to start one—something you will soon do if you plant Ratekin's Reliable Seeds. In addition to the methods of remittance we will accept clean postage stamps, one and two cent denominations, for small orders of less than \$2.00, when not convenient to send by more approved methods.
- 6th. Don't waste time by writing to ask if we have certain kinds of seeds, except it may be some variety of seed corn not listed by us, as we carry a full and complete stock of every kind of farm, grass, garden and flower seeds grown that are worth planting. In short, we are here to meet the requirements and demands of the trade, and you have no use to hunt elsewhere for anything in the seed line you want.

DON'T BE AFRAID OF MAKING A MISTAKE.

For 28 years we have been handling orders from all classes of people, "old and young," and have learned how to handle their orders in a manner that always pleases them. Don't be afraid you will make a mistake—we make them, so does everybody, but we are always glad to correct them. Write your name and address plainly, and if there is anything wrong about your order, we will either correct it or notify you. Talk natural to us; tell us what you want in your own language. Long experience has taught us how to understand our customers. We have tried to explain and make everything plain in this catalog, under the head of "Suggestions to Our Customers" and "Simple Rules for Ordering." But if there is anything else you want to know, write us and we will be glad to answer your questions and give you any information we can.

ABOUT CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES AND OVERCHARGES.

We carefully pack and deliver all our seeds in good condition, f. o. b. here, and take receipt from railroad or express companies, as case may be, showing they have been received in good order and good condition, and it rarely happens that any seeds reach destination in bad order. If, however, it should happen that bags are torn, boxes broken open or are otherwise in bad order; short in weight or in number of bags, or in any way defective, **BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR RAILROAD OR EXPRESS AGENT MAKE NOTATION OF SUCH SHORTAGE OR DEFECTION ON FREIGHT RECEIPT** (expense bill) he gives you. You can then present your claim for loss or damage to your agent from whom you received the seeds, it being his duty to take the matter up with the auditing department of his road and connecting lines, or if you will send the receipt or expense bill with said notation of shortage, defection or overcharge to us, we will file claim for you at this end of the route, with the initial railroad and agent here. We know how to handle such claims and have seldom if ever failed to collect full value of the loss or damage. **THIS WE DO ABSOLUTELY FREE OF CHARGE TO OUR CUSTOMER**, but of course would not advise or encourage anyone to make claim for the trifling amounts or a few cents.

FREIGHT RATES.

DON'T LET THE QUESTION OF FREIGHT CHARGES WORRY YOU.

Because, whether you buy from us, your home dealer or elsewhere, you pay the freight and usually a profit on that. Just so you make up an order to weigh one or two hundred pounds or over you will get the benefit of the hundred pound freight rate, and as low as any local merchant can get anywhere in the United States. Less than one or two hundred pounds will be charged same as if there was that much, but all shipments above that amount will be charged pro-rata on hundred pounds basis. The savings we make you on new high grade seeds, added to the increased yields and results of your crops, will pay you many times over, as first cost of good seeds is nominally nothing in results as compared with planting old run out or inferior sorts.

You will find it to advantage many times to induce your neighbors to join with you in ordering seeds for your farm and garden. We have many customers hundreds of miles away who club together and send their orders to us for seeds, thus getting their seeds cheaper and still further reducing freight rates, and we would be very glad to have you and your neighbors take advantage of our lowest prices in larger amounts.

Freight on seeds in hundred pound quantities and over is a small item, and by referring to the following table of rates and finding the nearest point or town in the table below, you can calculate almost exactly what the freight will amount to. It may be a few cents more or a few cents less, but it will give you an idea of what it will amount to. (See next page—table of freight rates).

LIST OF FREIGHT RATES FROM SHENANDOAH, IOWA, PER 100 POUNDS, TO PORTS NAMED BELOW.

ALABAMA.		Decatur\$0.30	Lexington\$0.50	Kearney\$0.46	SOUTH DAKOTA.
Birmingham ..\$0.54	Champaign32	Lebanon50	Churchville58	Lincoln24	Aberdeen\$0.56
Montgomery54	Carmi42	Pembroke49	Syracuse61	Omaha15	Armour49
Fruitdale57	McLeansboro..40	Paducah55	Utica63	Norfolk32	Canton52
Mobile47	Sidell40	Owensville55	Rotterdam Jct..64	Superior49	Gettysburg60
Tuscaloosa54	Olney42	Hickman55	Cornwall66	Tecumseh27	Chamberlain55
Decatur49	Calro49	Henderson52	New York City ..66	Wymore32	Vermillion49
Selma55	Murfreesboro..47	Cynthiana52	Mohawk63	York34	Yankton39
	Bloomington ..32	Ashland52	Troy60	Freemont24	Sioux Falls.....32
ARIZONA.	Paxton38		Buffalo49		Huron43
Phoenix2.30	Jacksonville ..30	LOUISIANA.	Albany60		Watertown45
Prescott2.30	Springfield30	Shreveport98	Poughkeepsie..62		Pierre60
		Pearl River.....1.06	Binghampton...61		Deadwood1.32
ARKANSAS.		New Orleans...92			Rapid City.....1.28
Hoxie63	INDIANA.		NEW YORK.		
Hope1.66	Effner39		Rochester58		TENNESSEE.
Fort Smith.....69	Adams43		Churchville58		Princeton Jct..47
Parragould70	Albany46	MARYLAND.	Syracuse61		Pond51
Blythedale70	Ft. Wayne.....43	Baltimore59	Utica63		Bear Springs...45
Brinkley72	Indianapolis ..41	Cumberland59	Rotterdam Jct..64		Tenn. Ridge...51
Stuttgart76	New Albany.....42		Cornwall66		Milan45
Little Rock.....76	Terre Haute...42	MICHIGAN.	New York City ..66		Nashville42
Pine Bluff.....76	Huntington38	Jackson54	Mohawk63		Memphis39
Helena67	Vincennes37	Adrian48	Troy60		Gallatin50
Bentonville60	North Vernon..41	Bay City48	Buffalo49		Hartsville51
Arkansas City ..89	Muncie42	Detroit18	Albany60		Frankfort48
Texasarkana89	Lafayette40	Grand Rapids..48	Poughkeepsie..62		Maysville49
Fayetteville55	Evansville45	Kalamazoo48	Binghampton...61		Paris54
De Valls Bluff..55	Martinsville ..44	Lansing48			Union City.....74
Siloam Springs ..86	Greencastle42	Ann Arbor48			Jackson89
De Queen86	Valparaiso43	Brown City.....51	N. CAROLINA.		
Ashdown86	Frankfort41	Chippewa53	Charlotte65		
	Michigan City..44	Emmett49	Fayetteville59		
	Goshen43	Manistequ57	Washington65		
		Cadillac52	Wilmington60		
CALIFORNIA.					
Los Angeles.....1.40	IOWA.	MINNESOTA.	NORTH DAKOTA.		
Sacramento1.40	Hamburg68	St. Charles32	Fergus Falls...55		
San Francisco 1.40	Carson10	Rochester32	Fargo59		
San Jose1.40	Clarinda08	Wauseka32	Bismark81		
Redding1.65	Council Bluffs 10	St. Paul32	Grand Forks...65		
	Chariton14	Blue Earth.....32			
COLORADO.	Cumlerland13	Fairmont32	OHIO.		
Denver74	Clinton27	Fairbault32	Chillicothe43		
Greeley75	Creston11	Duluth32	Cincinnati45		
Pueblo75	Albia16		Cleveland47		
Kit Carson75	Burlington22	MISSISSIPPI.	Columbus45		
Trinidad75	Des Moines16	Corinth95	Dayton42		
Leadville1.40	Griswold09	Tupelo97	Defiance44		
Ft. Morgan.....74	Humeston13	Aberdeen1.01	Lima45		
Holyoke73	Ottumwa17	Meridan97	Portsmouth46		
Boulder74	Sioux City.....19	Okolona1.00	Toledo45		
Brush74	Manning25	Artesia1.01	Xenia45		
	Coon Rapids...26	Starkville1.01	Youngstown...48		
CONNECTICUT.	Tama34		Eldorado42		
Bridgeport65	Oskaloosa18	MISSOURI.	Newark47		
Hartford65	Marshalltown..22	Delta52	East Mandale..50		
New Milford...65	Hampton25	Dexter62	Versailles52		
Litchfield65	Storm Lake.....30	New Madrid...56	Pickway53		
New Haven65	Cedar Rapids..38	Malden65	Washington...60		
Waterbury65	Rockwell City..26	Carrollton20	C. H.60		
	Spencer31	Cameron20	Bluffton44		
CANADA.	Spirit Lake.....32	Kansas City...20	Ironton47		
Chatham50	Jefferson21	Laclede27	Savona42		
Bothwell59	Sac City28	Maywood27	Canton47		
St. Thomas.....50	Davenport27	Napier15	Zanesville48		
Toronto50	Dubuque27	St. Joseph.....15	Sandusky46		
Montreal62	Emmetsburg...32	Osborn20	Akron47		
Quebec68		St. Louis27	Troy48		
London49		Hannibal27			
		Brunswick20	OKLAHOMA.		
DELAWARE.		Boonville40	Vinita56		
Dover62	KANSAS.	Moberly27	Wagoner65		
Farmington62	Concordia39	Kirksville27	Muskogee66		
Newark60	Atchison20	West Plains...27	McAllister75		
Wilmington60	Garnett39	Maryville15	Bartlesville ..56		
	Ft. Scott32	Higginsville..40	Osage66		
GEORGIA.	Gt. Bend63	Neosho45	Tupelo96		
Atlanta54	Leavenworth..20	Eve45	Guthrie96		
Brunswick55	Beloit49		Atoka96		
Savannah55	Parsons32	MONTANA.	Oklahoma City 82		
Macon56	Wichita55	Miles City1.18	Tulsa66		
	Newton51	Livingston1.59	Oklmulgee72		
IDAHO.	Topeka30	Butte1.63	Chickasha82		
American Falls 1.50	Manhattan38	Helena1.63	Enid82		
Boise1.80	Emporia43		Hugo1.09		
Spencer1.45	Winfield69	MASSACHUSETTS	Howe82		
	Oberlin66	Fall River65			
ILLINOIS.	Dodge City.....51	Springfield ..65	OREGON.		
Centralla34	Garden City.....65	Worcester65	Portland1.40		
Canton30	Olathe32	Boston65	Salem2.05		
Chicago32					
Aurora32	KENTUCKY.	NEBRASKA.	PENNSYLVANIA.		
Bushnell27	Louisville42	Chester37	Pittsburg50		
Beardstown27	Madisonville ..48	Culbertson63	Johnstown54		
Galesburg27	Hopkinsville ..44	Columbus30	Weyertown59		
Galva30	Gracey41	Alliance74	Philadelphia..60		
Litchfield34	Hematite47	Beatrice32	Bedford59		
Monmouth27	Greenbrier49	Ashland21	Erie59		
Ottawa32	Beatrice32	Broken Bow...56	Gettysburg59		
Peoria30	Owensburg42	Edgar39	Scranton60		
Quincy27	Russellville ..50	Fairmont31	Blairsville59		
Rock Island...27	Bowling Green 51	Grand Island..39	Lewisburg59		
Savanna27		Holdredge51			
Carthage27		Hastings39	RHODE ISLAND.		
			Providence65		
			Woonsocket65		

Sectional View and Illustration of Our Daily Outgoing Mail from January First to April Fifteenth



A Reproduction from Photograph.



THE CAMERA DOES NOT LIE.



In preceding, as well as following pages, we have given space and reference to the magnitude of our business and **OUR RESPONSIBILITY**, officially signed by the officers of some of our leading banking institutions in our home city; also excerpts from a few of the many leading agricultural publications that have given us favorable and complimentary endorsements, and if space would admit we could give the strongest of testimonials from thousands upon thousands of farmers and planters, scattered all over the United States, who have ordered their seeds from us, many of them from five to ten and twenty years past.

We own and operate the **RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE** here at Shenandoah, Iowa, the oldest and largest seed house under the same management in the west, and are the largest **WHOLESALE AND RETAIL SEED CORN GROWERS IN THE WORLD.**

The above illustrated sectional view of our out going mail during the busy seed business from January 1st to April 15th is not an overdrawn picture for effect, but is a reproduction from a "snap shot" kodak picture, taken by an amateur who happened to be passing, unbeknown to any of our office or working force at the time our mail was being made up and no one about or connected with us knew of it until the picture was developed and shown to us. It then occurred to us that it might be of some interest to our hundred thousand customers to see a picture of the interior of where their seeds and other mail matter starts on their journey, through the mails, over the rural routes, where the postman finally delivers it at your door. For these reasons, we had this photograph reproduced and enlarged so that all could get better and more comprehensive understanding of the magnitude of our mail order business.

Large as the volume of our business is: **PROMPT SERVICE AND QUICK SHIPMENTS IS OUR MOTTO.** Every branch of our business is under the personal supervision of experienced, able and competent management, and we guarantee that any inquiry or communication of any kind will have immediate attention and that your orders will be filled promptly and accurately. We appreciate the fact that it often means great inconvenience and in many cases actual loss to you if your order is held up or delayed, or if seeds are improperly routed for shipment, or where mistakes of any kind are made. For these reasons each and every inquiry and order has the most careful attention, is booked, numbered and postal acknowledgment is made by first mail, except where the order is started same day. In event seeds go by mail, they will reach you as soon as postal acknowledgment would. If sent by freight or express, duplicate receipt or shipping bill will be mailed by first mail after delivering to express or railroad company. We have been in business long enough (**TWENTY-EIGHT YEARS**) to **KNOW THAT PROMPT ACTION AND QUICK SHIPMENTS PLEASES OUR CUSTOMERS** and encourages them and their neighbors to **SEND BACK TO US AGAIN.**

References and Reliabilities

Since this catalog will reach the farmers and seed buyers of practically every postoffice in the United States and many others across the waters, in every country on the face of the globe, there may naturally be some who have never patronized us that will ask as to how long we have been in business, our reliability and responsibility, or other pertinent questions. We therefore take pleasure in saying we have been in business here since 1884, twenty-eight years, during which time we have established a trade and business second to no other wholesale and retail mail order seed house in the west, and it is with great pleasure that we refer each and all who may wish to make inquiry to The Shenandoah National Bank, Commercial National Bank and the Security Trust & Savings Bank of this city; also the Mayor, Postmaster, Adams and Wells Fargo Express Agents, or any business house or citizen of Shenandoah; also Dun and Bradstreet's Commercial Agencies and your local bank, who can look up our financial rating in a moment's time.

WHAT OUR BANKS SAY.

NO. 2679

The Shenandoah National Bank.

UNITED STATES DEPOSITORY

Shenandoah, Iowa

June 1.

GEORGE BOGART, Pres't
R. M. GWYNN, Cashier
C. J. ALDEN, Asst. Cash.
F. M. SCHNEIDER, Asst. Cash.

To Whom It May Concern,

It is with pleasure that we testify to our good opinion of the integrity, responsibility and business ability of Mr. J. W. Ratekin, proprietor and business manager of the "Ratekin's Seed House" of this City, and to say that we have personally been well acquainted with Mr. Ratekin for many years, during which time this house has, by an honorable business record, built up a large wholesale and retail mail order trade, second to no other like business house in the west.

Anyone can, in our judgement, feel perfectly secure in sending their orders and money to this house, as we understand they ship all their seed agreeing that anything not proving satisfactory on receipt and examination may be returned at their expense and money paid will be immediately refunded, and we believe this house can be relied upon to do exactly as they agree.

Very truly yours,

George Bogart
Pres't.

8971

THE COMMERCIAL NATIONAL BANK

Capital, \$50,000.00

Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$12,000.00

H. I. FOSKETT, President
A. W. MURPHY, Vice-President
J. F. LAKE, Cashier

Shenandoah, Iowa, June 10.

To Whom It May Concern:

We take pleasure in speaking a good word for the Ratekin Seed House. The proprietor, Mr. J. W. Ratekin, has been intimately known to us for a number of years and he has proven himself an energetic and successful business man. Starting a number of years ago with a very small plant, he today has developed it into one of the largest seed houses, both retail and wholesale, in the central west.

The Ratekin Seed House is entirely responsible financially, therefore anyone desiring to trade with them need have no hesitation in doing so, as we understand it is a fixed rule of the house to refund any money sent, where for any reason the goods shipped are not found satisfactory on examination.

Very truly yours,

J. F. LAKE, Cashier.

THE SECURITY TRUST & SAVINGS BANK

C. W. FISHBAUGH, President
JOSEPH MORHAIN, Vice-Pres't
E. C. FISHBAUGH, Cashier

CAPITAL, \$30,000.00

Shenandoah, Iowa, June 16, 19

To Whom It May Concern:

For many years we have been acquainted, both in a personal and business way with Mr. J. W. Ratekin, proprietor of Ratekin's Seed House of this city. During this time he has handled many thousand bushels of seed from the farms of men connected with this bank, and these and his business relations with us have always been so pleasant and satisfactory that we appreciate this opportunity to express our good opinion of his integrity, financial standing and progressive business methods.

His house has built up an extensive business, and the fact that a dissatisfied customer is unheard of is sufficient testimonial of the straight business methods of the firm and the quality of seed they handle.

Very truly yours,

E. C. FISHBAUGH, Cashier.

Endorsements from the Agricultural Press

Which proves that Ratekin's Seed House gives Good Seeds, Good Measure and Good Treatment at Farmer Prices. Their Guarantee goes with Every Packet, Pound or Bushel of Seed Sent Out.

THE LARGEST SEED CORN GROWERS IN THE WORLD.



From ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH:



Southwestern Iowa is the natural and most favored home of corn where it attains its greatest perfection. This is no idle boast. The claim can be easily established. The Nishnabotna Valley is wonderfully productive. Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, before Shenandoah existed and when this part of Iowa was an unbroken prairie occupied only by Indians, prairie chickens, wolves and deer. Standing upon a hill top, four miles southwest of the site of the city, Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotna River and declared that the landscape was the most beautiful he had ever seen. He called it the garden spot of the world. The rich soil extends four, six and even eight feet in depth, full of life giving qualities that make the monster crops of corn. Mark out a square of 25 miles eastward from the banks of the Missouri River and ten miles south to 40 miles north of the state line and there is not another such productive spot in the world.

While there has been no regular organization among the corn growers of that section, there has been a rivalry that has stimulated and made possible greater improvement in the production of a higher type, better quality and larger yields perhaps than if such an organization had existed. Among the choice and favorite varieties in greatest favor is what is known as "Ratekin's Pride of Nishna." It is one of the best and most distinct types of corn in existence and is becoming the main crop of the corn belt. It is a medium sized variety of yellow corn possessing a marked degree of superiority over other varieties of corn grown elsewhere, and in addition has uniformly given the most uniform large yields. This variety of corn is grown with great success from the Dakotas to Texas and other distant states, but after two or three years it deteriorates and a new supply of better seed from the Nishnabotna Valley must be supplied.

For 27 years such pioneers in the seed corn business as the Ratekin's have talked "the breeding up of corn." At first they were laughed at for their pains, but their advice and persistence has resulted in the raising of unheard of crops. One hundred bushels to the acre is no uncommon thing. But such crops are secured only by carefully selected seed and varieties and by a mixture of brains with its cultivation.

The Iowa State Agricultural College first had its attention called to the possibility of the great increase that could be made in the corn growing districts by experiments made in this section. Year after year it has experimented with the seed corn obtained from this locality, southwestern Iowa, and year after year the best results and largest yields have been obtained from Shenandoah seed. Missouri Agricultural College has found the Shenandoah seed the best. Nebraska's college has made the same discovery.

In South Dakota, Iowa grown seed has won honors, and indeed three years ago the first honor at the Ames Agricultural College was awarded a South Dakota man on corn grown from Shenandoah seed, and that man attributed his prize to the fact that he had secured the best seed obtainable.—St. Louis Dispatch.

In addition to this, the Ratekin Seed House is constantly trying new varieties of corn and whenever any of these new varieties prove of special merit, we propagate it and place it before our customers and they get the benefit. If you want to improve your corn and increase your yield, don't fool away your time sending to amateurs for seed because they offer it but a little above elevator prices. Cheap prices may seem attractive to some, but it's better and cheaper to pay **FIVE DOLLARS PER BUSHEL** for good seed corn; thoroughbred, of inherited productive qualities, than to plant some seed even as a gift.



IOWA HOMESTEAD—(Des Moines, Iowa):



Many farmers have become a little bit excited during recent years about their seed corn, this being due to the agitation that emanates from agricultural colleges. As a result of this agitation there has sprung up a large number of so-called corn experts. Many of these were "grown over night"—a hot-house production, as it were. It is not so with the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa. Twenty-seven years of experience count for more than mere reading of a bulletin or two. As a result of this long experience the Ratekin Seed House has acquired the whole combination that must be called into being if one's customers are satisfied. The success of this firm, as indicated by the growth of their business, should be a matter of great pride to the manager, J. W. Ratekin, but the reputation of having started thousands of men in the corn belt with a supply of good seed is, after all, the most substantial monument to its success.



From BREEDERS GAZETTE—(Chicago, Ill.):



RATEKIN'S FARM ANNUAL is especially strong on the seed corn side, yet it illustrates and describes all kinds of seeds for the farm, field and garden. The Ratekin Seed House is located at Shenandoah, Iowa, and is an immense establishment. They have built up their large and rapidly growing business by "making good" that declaration, "They sell seeds that grow." The seeds grow because they have been well grown, intelligently and properly cured. Seeds thus handled possess strong germinating power. They are full of constitutional vigor, to use the words of a plant breeder. Extreme care is exercised in the selection of seeds, especially the farm seeds offered, and the Ratekin people believe they can supply a grade of farm seeds that cannot be excelled in freshness, soundness and freedom from trash, foreign seeds or disease. (See next page).



Successful Seed House



From TWENTIETH CENTURY FARMER—(Omaha, Neb.):

When the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, sends the seed you can plant it without any worry as to results. The Ratekin Seed House was established in 1884 to meet a demand for pure bred seed corn. It was a farmer who founded it. Twenty-seven years in growing and selecting farm and garden seeds means a lot of experience. It means that poor and inferior varieties have been discarded and thrown out and only the most prolific and hardy sorts retained. A visit to the Ratekin Seed House would be worth money to any farmer. It would open his eyes and sharpen his wits. He would begin to understand why pure bred, carefully selected seed is worth planting. The Nishnabotna Valley of Southwestern Iowa is the Egypt of the world on corn. The Ratekins were the pioneers in the business. Others have tried to imitate in this line, but they have come and gone. Order your seed corn from them, and don't worry about results.

FARMERS MAIL AND BREEZE—(Topeka, Kansas):
(62,000 circulation in Kansas and Oklahoma).

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

You have used space in the Farmers Mail and Breeze for many years, and we have frequently seen letters from our subscribers complimenting your seed house upon its promptness and satisfactory manner in which you transacted your business with them.

With best wishes for your further success, we are,

Very respectfully,

FARMERS MAIL AND BREEZE,
By Arthur Capper, Publisher.

FARMER AND STOCKMAN—(Kansas City, Mo.):

For many years the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, has been a free user of advertising space in the Farmer and Stockman. As a result of this many of our readers have had business dealings with this firm. We believe that we voice the sentiments of practically all customers of this firm when we say that all seeds sent out by the Ratekin Seed House are not only up to the standard in germination qualities and in purity, but they are above the standard in excellency of varieties offered for sale. This is especially true as applied to farm crops, and notably of seed corn. The locality where they are situated is recognized to be one of the best corn growing localities in the United States, and by a system of co-operation with good corn growers a large number of varieties are grown under the very eye of the officers and managers of this house, so that when such corn is sent out it does not turn out to be a hybrid, but produces like the parent corn. Any endorsement that we might give to the methods adopted by this firm in caring for their corn might with equal force be applied to their plan of handling all seeds.

WISCONSIN FARMER—(Madison, Wis.):

Ratekins's Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, has become exceedingly well known by a great many of our readers, and this acquaintance begun in a business venture involving the purchase of some kind of seeds, has ripened into real friendship. This well known firm has made the growing of pure bred Seed Corn a specialty for over twenty-seven years, growing thousands of acres each year under special contract with the farmers of their locality. Shenandoah is located in one of the best seed corn districts in the United States, and by supplying the best seed and the best of varieties the Ratekin Seed House has built up a wonderful business, extending to every state in the Union. On their books they have the names of thousands of good farmers who have given them the strongest kind of endorsement.

NATIONAL FARMER AND STOCK GROWER—(St. Louis, Mo.):

We desire to say that Ratekin's Seed House of Shenandoah Iowa, stands high as a well-equipped, reliable seed house. After carrying their advertisement for many years we have every reason to believe and certify that our patrons are well satisfied with seeds bought of them and results obtained. We have received words of commendation, but never a word of complaint.

PHILIP H. HALE, Ed. National Farmer and Stock Grower.

FARMERS' TRIBUNE—(Sioux City, Iowa):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We have carried your advertisement for a good many years, and we are pleased to say in this connection that we have yet to receive the first complaint from any reader who has dealt with you. The fact that you were pioneers in the growing and breeding of improved varieties of seed corn has given you prestige, and this opinion is the main reason why your business has grown so rapidly in recent years. Very truly yours,

JOHN THOMPSON, Editor.

PRAIRIE FARMER—(Chicago, Ill.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We are pleased to have the opportunity to say that for many years we have watched with a lot of interest the splendid growth of your seed corn business. During this time you have supplied many thousands of our subscribers with seeds, and that you have treated them well and given them good value is evident from the fact that in all these years we have never received a single complaint. It is always a pleasure, therefore, to recommend you to our readers, and we hope when you have cast up your accounts for this season you will find such treatment of customers has won its reward in making this the largest and most profitable season you have ever had. Thanking you for past favors, and hoping in future we may be able to serve you further, we remain very truly yours,

PRAIRIE FARMER, A. J. Sullivan, Adv. Mgr.

(Continued on next page.)

GROWERS OF HARDY, NORTHERN GROWN FIELD & GARDEN SEEDS



Successful Seed House



OHIO FARMER—(Cleveland, Ohio):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen: It is with much pleasure that we state that during the many years' advertising you have done in our paper we can find record of having received complaint from only one of our many thousands of readers who patronize you, and you at once settled that complaint promptly, and more generously than the complainant had any right to expect. We therefore can honestly endorse your methods of doing business.

Wishing you the very best success during the coming season we are, very truly yours,

LAWRENCE PUBLISHING CO., by M. W. Lawrence, President.

INDIANA FARMER—(Indianapolis, Ind.):

Ratekin's Seed House has become well known to the farmers of the Western Central States. The house has been selling field and garden seeds to our readers for many years past, and so far as we know with uniform satisfaction to those using them.

INDIANA FARMER CO.

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE—(St. Louis, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen: It is said that he who plants a tree is a public benefactor. It can be truthfully said that he who improves and contributes to the improvement of the products of the farm and garden in quality and quantity is more entirely a benefactor—as these products sustain life, add to its comforts and pleasures, and assist materially in putting Agriculture on a higher plane. You are entitled to this distinction. As the publishers of an agricultural journal we deem it our duty to our great farming constituency to guard his interests in the matter of seeds and to recommend to him that which will do him good and advance his interests. We have had many an occasion these twenty-five years of our acquaintance to recommend to him your products, and you have at no time abused the confidence we reposed in you or inspired in others. You have, to use a trite phrase, "delivered the goods," and such as have met expectation and been satisfactory. We rejoice in your success, thus honestly won, and with best wishes for your future we are, yours very truly,

JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

COLEMAN'S RURAL WORLD—(St. Louis, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

We extend to you our appreciation of your continuous patronage of our advertising columns since 1885, and judging from the high manner in which our readers have always endorsed your business methods and the good you have done for the farmer you will certainly reap a reward. We have yet the first complaint to receive from any reader where they have not had the best treatment from you.

We pledge you our hearty support in the good work you are doing, and wish continued success and prosperity. Very truly yours,

COLEMAN'S RURAL WORLD, L. M. Eidman, Adv. Mgr.

From FARM AND RANCH—(Dallas, Texas):

It may be of interest to you to know that although Farm and Ranch has always guaranteed every advertisement in its columns, it has not during the many years you have advertised with us, had a single complaint against your house. In view of the fact that you have done an enormous business in this southwest it ought to be gratifying to know that while we have heard many complimentary things as to the methods and way you do business, we have never had a single complaint. In view of the large amount of business you have from this section, the above facts are the strongest possible endorsement of your firm. Personally, we hold you and your firm in the highest esteem, and do not hesitate to recommend you to our readers. Yours very truly,

FARM AND RANCH PUB. CO., Frank P. Holland, Pres.

From KANSAS FARMER—(Topeka, Kansas):

Ratekin's Seed House:

Gentlemen:—We are pleased to say that for twenty years the Kansas Farmer has been favored with your seed advertising, and we are gratified to state to you that during this time we have never had a single complaint. This tells a significant story in your behalf. Evidently your system and methods of doing business are thoroughly up-to-date and satisfactory to all concerned.

Yours very truly, KANSAS FARMER PUBLISHING CO.

THE FRUIT GROWER—(St. Joseph, Mo.):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

The Fruit Grower desires to say that its business relations with you have always been very satisfactory, and we have yet to hear of a customer who has any complaint to make of the treatment he has received from you.

Yours respectfully, FRUIT GROWER CO.

FARMERS' TRIBUNE—(Sioux City, Iowa):

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

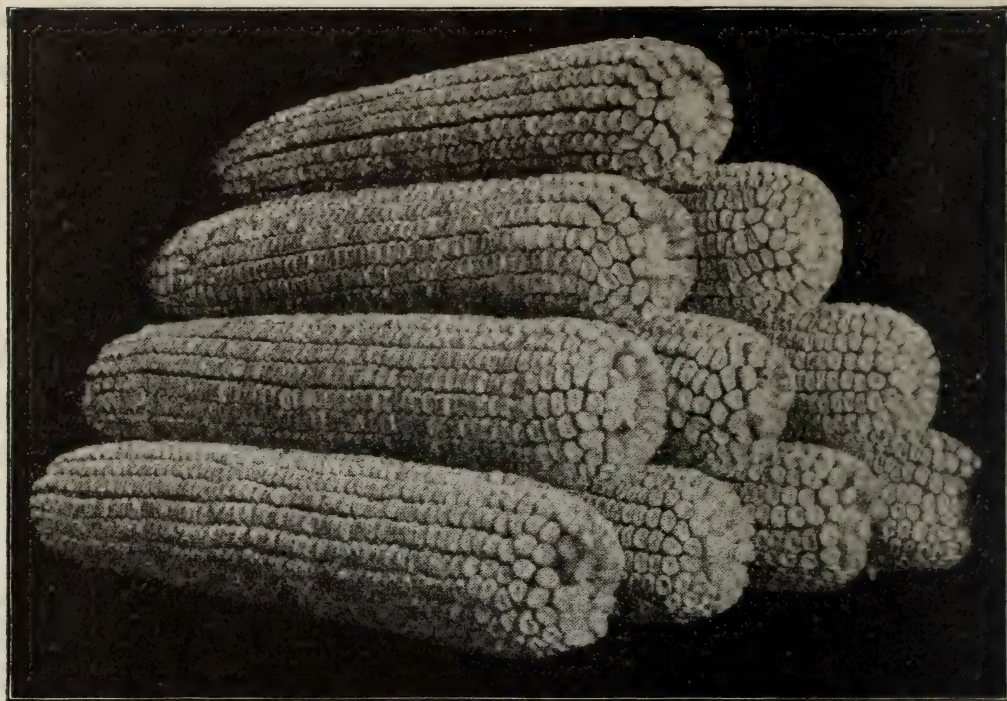
We have carried your advertisement for a good many years and we are pleased to say in this connection that we have yet to receive the first complaint from any reader who has dealt with you. The fact that you were pioneers in the growing and breeding of improved varieties of seed corn has given you prestige, and this opinion is the main reason why your business has grown so rapidly in recent years.

Very truly yours,

John Thompson, Editor.



WHAT IS GOOD SEED CORN ?



WHAT IS GOOD SEED CORN? By far too many consider seed good simply because it will grow. To be first class seed, it must be grown from pure bred inherent varieties, productive varieties of seed corn that have been well matured and preserved from ripening time until planting time in a manner that it will retain its full vigor.

To obtain good seed corn—we mean the highest bred, best quality, most thoroughly matured—of the strongest vitality and superior varieties, you should go or send to that place where corn grows best and to the highest perfection in all the points we have enumerated, and to the seedman who grows his seed corn and knows from practical experience what good seed corn is.

The science of animal breeding has been followed for the past 100 years or more in this country, but it is only in recent years that the farmer has become awakened to the fact that the same ideas intelligently applied to corn growing and corn breeding has proven ten times more profitable pro-rata, with the expenditure than any stock breeder ever expected, realized or attained.

In purchasing your seed corn, **STAMP IT IN YOUR MIND** that the purchase price should be the last consideration. Corn that will produce five bushels better yield per acre is much better worth \$10.00 per bushel than ordinary varieties would be as a gift, and comes back to you "four fold" in the results of your crop. **THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE WHEN** you consider that **ONE BUSHEL OF SEED CORN PLANTS FROM SIX TO TEN ACRES OF LAND** (usually about seven to eight acres). Even **ONE BUSHEL INCREASED YIELD PER ACRE WILL PAY THE COST OF THE SEED** which amounts to only 30 to 50 cents per acre, and in addition saves you the price and value of your own corn, saying nothing of the trouble and expense of picking the seed from your field or crib, as the case may be.

OUR CUSTOMERS WHO HAVE OBTAINED THEIR SEED CORN FROM US have invariably obtained an **INCREASED YIELD OF 15 TO 20 BUSHEL OVER ORDINARY HOME GROWN or NATIVE SORTS**, and very many of them have obtained under special advantages as much as **50 TO 75 BUSHEL INCREASED YIELDS**.

WE CAN OFTEN HELP OUR CUSTOMERS IN THEIR SELECTIONS. In the autumn of each year, we send out hundreds and sometimes thousands of letters and inquiries to our customers all over the country to ascertain their experience and results obtained from different varieties in different states and localities; also time planted, manner of cultivation, and other important questions of information. By reason of this, we can and do often materially help our customers in making suitable selections to meet their requirements, conditions of soil, climate, seasons, etc.

WHAT IS GOOD SEED CORN?

THOROUGHbred HIGH YIELDING VARIETIES CANNOT BE OBTAINED AND PRODUCED IN ONE YEAR. It requires time, practical knowledge and experience. A step year by year. "SLOW BUT SURE," and when you order or buy your seed corn from us, you get the benefit of our twenty-eight years' experience in the breeding and growing of seed corn. **WE ARE THE OLDEST AND LARGEST SEED CORN GROWERS IN THE WORLD.** Ratekin's "famous" Iowa grown seed corn is known from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Gulf to Canada. **WE BEGUN THE SEED BUSINESS TO STAY.** Others have tried to imitate us, but many of them have come and gone. **WE ARE still HERE,** but could not stay if our seed and representations did not bear us out in our claims. **"SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY BACK."**

WHY WE ARE HERE. This we have partly explained, but supplementary to what I have already said, I cannot, in closing, resist or refrain from giving you some further impressions that come to me about our natural facilities and—

THE BEAUTIFUL NISHNA VALLEY OF SOUTHWESTERN IOWA.

There may be more beautiful valleys than the Valley of the Nishnabotna. Not having traveled all over the world, I do not know, but I have traveled over much of the territory in the United States. I have heard travelers who have made the trip around the world and visited about every country on the face of the globe rave over the beauties of rivers and streams in foreign lands. But I did not know whether they were telling the truth or just blowing off, and neither does it make any difference for this occasion.

I do know, and that is all that really concerns me, that this is the natural home and greatest corn growing locality to be found in the world; where corn attains its greatest perfection; where, owing to this fact, corn is the chief product of all our farms and farmers. For these reasons, if for nothing else, it's the place where corn has been nurtured and brought up to its highest perfection.

The Nishnabotna country is as fertile as the Valley of the Nile, and we have the richest, wealthiest class of farmers here to be found in any place I have ever visited or seen. Corn was the foundation of all this wealth, not that they hauled their product to the market and railroad stations and sold it, but wherever corn is grown in abundance, the farmers have a lot of stock, horses, cattle and hogs, about them and are thus enabled to get the benefits of all the by-food products out of it, and in lieu of paying freight on ten or twenty car loads of grain from their year's crop, it is condensed into beef, pork and fine horses, thus instead of being ten to twenty cars to pay freight on, there is but five or six, as the case may be.

Bayard Taylor, the famous poet, author, journalist and traveler, crossed this part of the country years ago, long before Shenandoah existed or got onto the map, and when this part of Iowa was an unbroken prairie, occupied and inhabited only by Indians, prairie chickens, wolves and deer. Standing upon a hill top, four miles southwest of where the site of Shenandoah was afterwards located, Mr. Taylor gazed across the valley of the Nishnabotna River and declared that "the landscape was the most beautiful his eyes had ever beheld. He called it the garden spot of the world." And so it has proved to be.

Good Seeds the Key to the Harvest.
J. M. Ratekin

Mr. Ratekin—I have bought my seeds from your house for the past twenty years, and I am free to say I have never bought a packet of seed from you that did not grow. In addition to this the beauty and satisfaction of it is, I have always found the seeds fresh and new. In short, they grow, and have always proven true to name. When I get my seeds from you I know what to depend upon. Your northern grown seeds are not only superior to **SOUTHERN TRUCK GROWERS' SEEDS**, but they are a month earlier, and I have garden vegetables a month sooner than any of my neighbors who plant old, wornout varieties. I expect to engage in the truck growing business this year and enclose you a list of seeds wanted. It will probably amount to \$60.00 to \$75.00. Figure it closely and make me your best wholesale prices to truck growers. Wishing you the continued success you are so justly entitled to, I remain, sincerely yours,

JOHN J. RUSSELL, Vicksburg, Miss.

We have just received our seeds and are greatly pleased with them.

MRS. GRACE MUSSER, Juda, Wis.

Have just received our seeds and am greatly obliged to you for quick action.

MRS. N. V. THOMPSON, Hillsboro, Tenn.

Received seeds all O. K. Think they are fine. Many thanks.

JENNINGS B. WATSON, Milford, Kan.

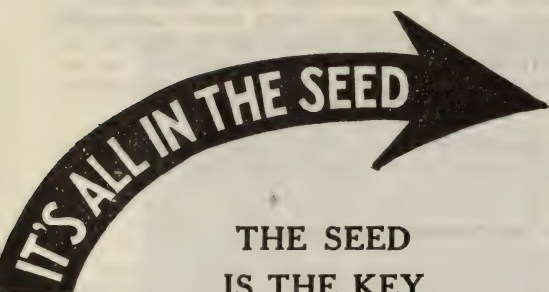
Shipment of seeds received and they look fine, new and fresh. Many thanks.

WM. FREEMAN, Greenview, Ills.

Received seeds all right. Am obliged to you for favors. Respectfully,

MRS. MARY FERRELL, New Wilmington, Penn.

Actual Cost of Good Seed



THE SEED IS THE KEY TO THE HARVEST

The actual cost of good pure bred seeds is the smallest item of expense in the growing and production of the crop, and when results are known, the cost of good seeds are an asset rather than an expense, especially is this so when applied to seed corn. It isn't what a thing costs; it is what it returns to the purchaser. It has been proven and demonstrated by thousands of our customers all over the United States, wherever corn is grown, that results are the same—that our pure high bred varieties of seed grows crops that outyield ordinary sorts of corn from ten to forty bushels per acre and in some instances even more than the latter figure.

It requires about six bushels of seed corn to plant forty acres. If you use your own seed it is worth market price, say fifty cents per bushel, and if your time and labor is worth anything it is worth 25 to 50 cents per bushel to pick out the seed—nub and tip—and shell ready for planting; thus your own seed will probably cost you \$6.00.

Now if you send to us, your seed will cost you from \$2.00 to \$3.00 per bushel. Say it costs you \$2.00 per bushel; that makes the cost of your seed to plant 40 acres of corn \$12.00, just six dollars more than if you plant your own corn. Should you obtain but one bushel increased yield per acre, it would make 40 bushels. At 50c per bushel, it would amount to \$20.00. If you obtain an increased yield of say 15 bushels per acre, and this is no overdrawn estimate, it would amount to six hundred bushels; at 50c per bushel, would amount to \$300.00. This estimate being conservative, it is a very strong argument in favor of planting only pure, high-bred seed.

RIGHT HERE WE WANT TO QUOTE PROF. P. G. HOLDEN of the **IOWA STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**, at Ames, Iowa, who says: "I went to the corn fields of one hundred farmers in Storey County (Iowa), where the farmers were in their fields planting corn, and I took a quantity of seed corn, such as they were planting, from one hundred different corn planter boxes, and took it to the grounds of the State Experimental Station of the Iowa Agricultural College, and planted it on our trial fields. Some of it made **ONLY TWENTY BUSHELS**, while other lots yielded almost one hundred bushels per acre. This wide difference **WAS ALL IN THE SEED AND VARIETIES**. The land and cultivation and other methods all being identically alike. The expense of growing was the same. The **BEST SEED AND VARIETIES** produced fully **FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN**, of better quality, than did the other lots of **INFERIOR SEED**."

PLANT PURE SEEDS—BEST SEEDS.

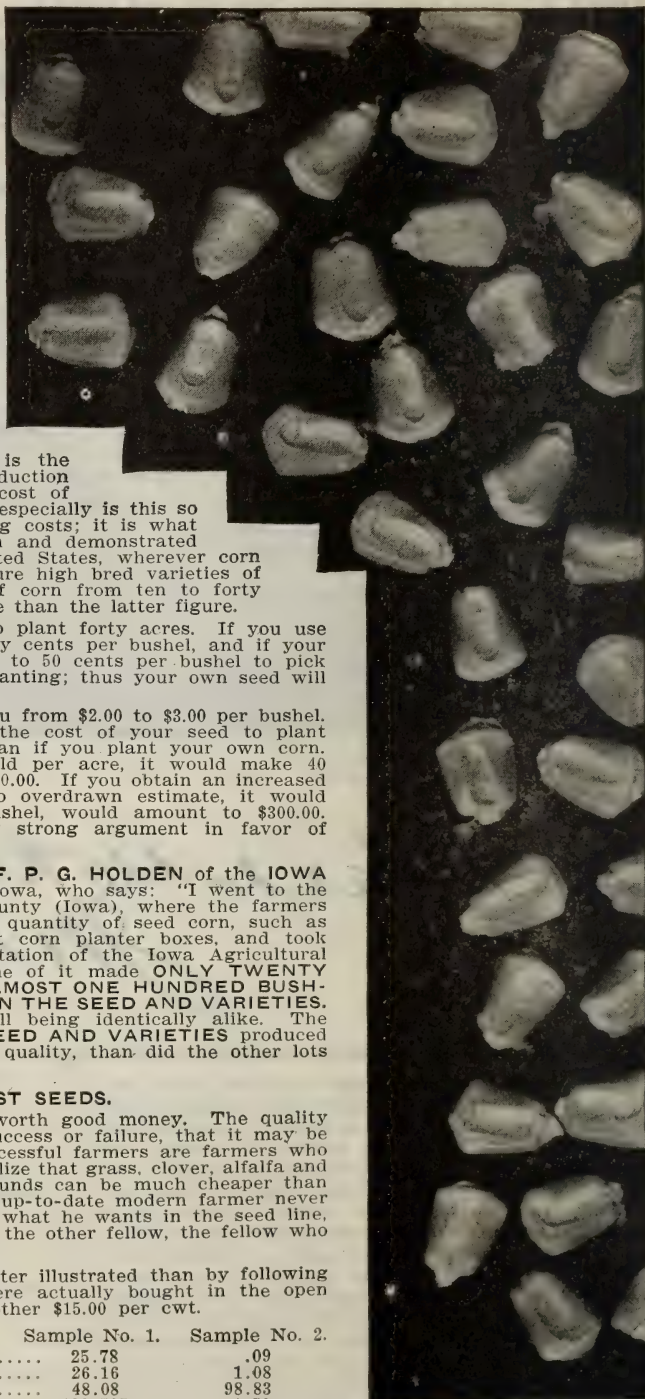
ANOTHER TEST: Good seeds are always worth good money. The quality of the seeds used is such a factor in farming, success or failure, that it may be broadly stated, as a general rule, that the unsuccessful farmers are farmers who buy cheap seeds. It seems difficult for them to realize that grass, clover, alfalfa and all other seeds at \$15.00 to \$20.00 per hundred pounds can be much cheaper than seed at \$5.00 to \$10.00 per hundred pounds. The up-to-date modern farmer never hesitates to buy the best and pay top prices for what he wants in the seed line, and he thereby succeeds and makes money while the other fellow, the fellow who buys cheap seeds, remains poor.

Cheap seed is expensive! This cannot be better illustrated than by following the analysis of two lots of red clover which were actually bought in the open market, one lot costing \$5.20 per cwt. and the other \$15.00 per cwt.

Sample No. 1. Sample No. 2.

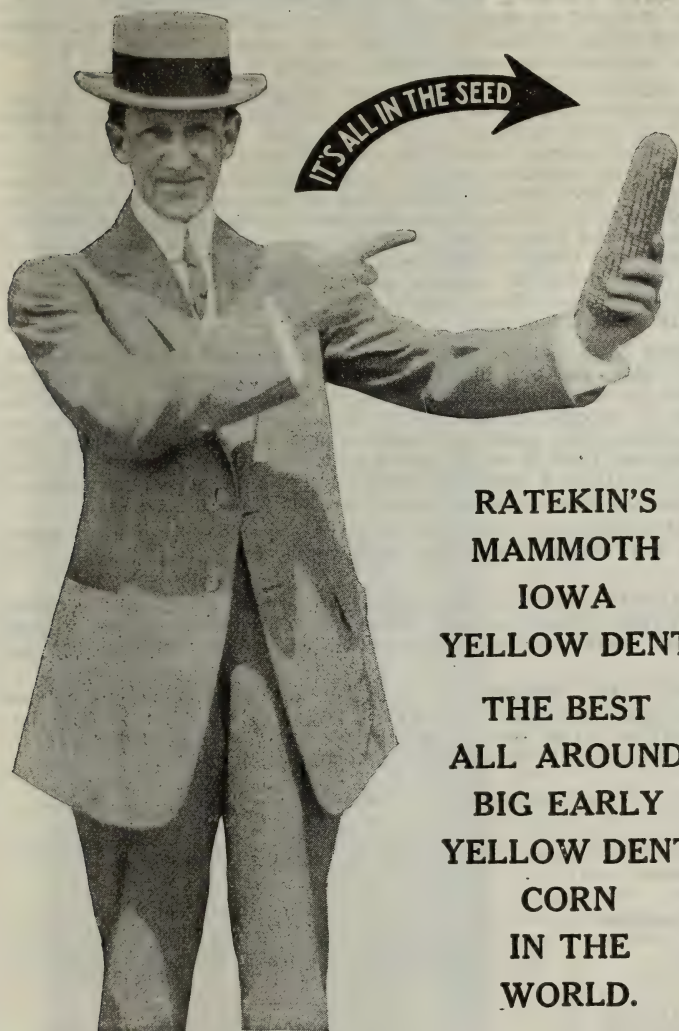
Percentage of weed seed	25.78	.09
Percentage of dirt, sticks and trash.....	26.16	1.08
Percentage of red clover	48.08	98.83
Number weed seed per pound.....	139.727	1.50
Percentage red clover, germinated	18.25	98.86
Actual cost per cwt. red clover seed that germinated..	\$28.48	\$15.65

Obviously the farmer who bought the cheap seed made an expensive investment. The same rule holds good all along the line when it comes to buying and planting seeds for your crops.



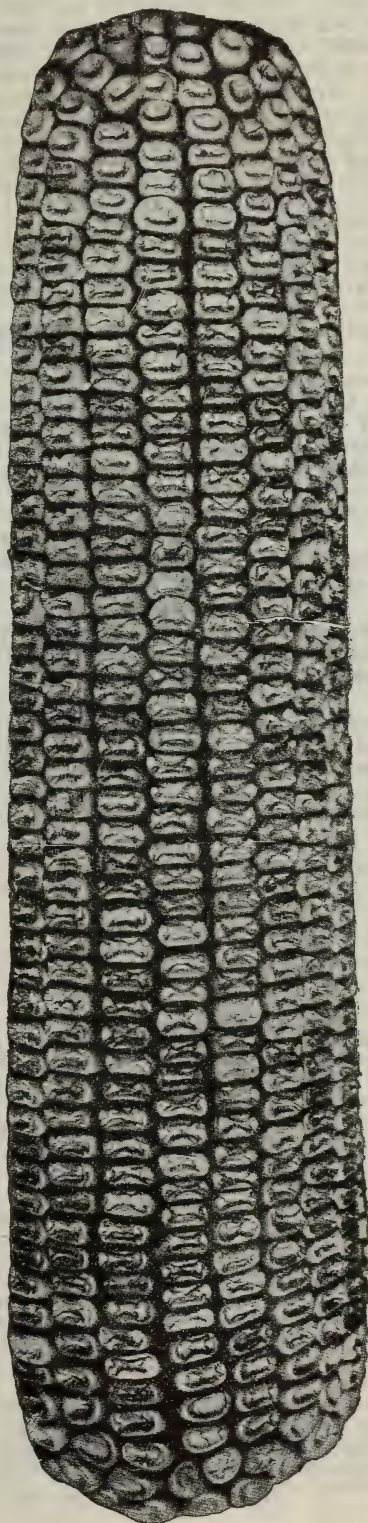
Seed like this runs evenly in the planter, and will make 100 bushels corn.

Ratekin's Mammoth Iowa Yellow Dent



**RATEKIN'S
MAMMOTH
IOWA
YELLOW DENT**

**THE BEST
ALL AROUND
BIG EARLY
YELLOW DENT
CORN
IN THE
WORLD.**



RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH IOWA YELLOW DENT derived its name because of the large ears it produces and enormous yields. Tried and tested, east, west, north and south. It is a strictly new variety, catalogued this year for the first time.

ITS HISTORY: For years, ever since we developed and brought out "Diamond Joe's Big White," the big eared early white corn that has gained a world wide fame in such a short time, we have been experimenting, crossing, hybridizing and breeding from many varieties and strains of yellow corn in order to originate **A LARGE EARED EARLY MATURING YELLOW CORN**, something that would match and equal our "Diamond Joe's Big White," which we originated and first introduced in 1904, eight years ago, since which time the seed trade, farmers and corn growers have been making anxious inquiry from every direction for a yellow corn of similar characteristics. During this time many sorts have been tried and found wanting, through one defect or another; therefore, we have always been conservatively cautious about giving endorsements to the trade and our customers to any variety of corn we have introduced that we did not believe and absolutely know to be all we claimed for it. In the introduction of this exceptionally good, new

RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH IOWA YELLOW DENT.

variety, we are pleased to say **WE ARE ABLE TO GIVE OUR UNQUALIFIED ENDORSEMENT TO IT AS** being all we claim for it and one, if not **THE BEST ALL ROUND VARIETIES OF YELLOW DENT CORN**, for all purposes; general field crop, for market, feeding and ensilage purposes, that has ever before been offered or introduced to the American corn growing farmer.

NOTE: It has been pointed out by experiments in the Department of Agriculture of various state experimental stations and has been demonstrated and shown beyond question of doubt that by suitable crosses of two varieties and strains of corn when thoroughly hybridized and after having formed a well developed character it has shown to be of greater productive power, giving materially larger and better yields than either its parents. This point has also been brought to attention through farm bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture, and already this method of breeding and improving the yield of corn has been taken up by a goodly number of advanced, progressive farmers and corn growers. This method, however, requires time, patience and a good degree of intelligence and a good judge of corn to go through all the munitions, combine and bring out the best results. We have now given six years hard study and close attention to every detail in crossing and hybridizing this new variety of corn. Yet, while experimenting on this, we have been trying many other crosses, and this new introduction is the **SUPREME SUCCESS AND RESULT** of all.

DESCRIPTION: In Ratekin's Mammoth Iowa Yellow Dent, our customers will find a high-bred, pure variety of a beautiful golden yellow color, and one that will please you; contains 16 to 20 rows on the cob, deep and solidly set; makes the finest appearance when shelled, but equally beautiful in the ear. It grows a strong, rank, rugged stalk of medium height, very profuse blades; the ears are set midway of the stalk, $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 feet from ground, thin husk and small shank or neck at butt of ear, making it very easy to husk or snap; ears run from 8 to 12 inches long and from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference; every stalk bears from one to two good ears, there being no barren stalks whatever in seasons of ordinary moisture or normal conditions, and withal a wonderful drouth resister.

EARLY MATURITY: In breeding and propagating this new variety of corn, we have kept uppermost in mind a **LARGE EARED, EARLY MATURING VARIETY** that would make itself in 90 to 110 days, producing the maximum yield.

LIMITED SUPPLY: We have but a limited supply of this variety of corn for the coming season's trade, but are anxious that all our corn growing customers have some of it, even if no more than enough to plant 5 or 10 acres. Try it and watch results. We know it will please you and not disappoint your highest expectations.

PRICE: 1 lb., 30c postpaid; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant on acre), \$1.25 postpaid; one choice ear, 40c; by express or freight, purchaser's expense, peck, \$1.25; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$2.25; 1 bu., \$4.00; 5 bu. and over, \$3.75 per bushel; for larger quantities, write for prices. Prices include bags free, f. o. b. Shenandoah, Iowa. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c. per bushel to foregoing prices.

The seeds I ordered of you last year were all right, the best I ever planted.

FRED DANZEL, Avon, Minn.

The seeds I got of you were perfect. The parsnips did extra well. The melon peaches were grand. Everyone who tasted them were wild over them.

MISS C. M. FIRTH, Claremont, Minn.

The seed I purchased from you grew as fine vegetables as I ever saw. I have tried different seedsmen and find yours the best of all. I don't ask any better from any company.

A. E. BEAM, Dixie, Okla.

I have neglected to write you about the seed corn I ordered from you. It was received in good time and has been planted, is up and looks fine. I am certainly well pleased both with seed and your promptness.

Respectfully, H. MUECKE,
Yoakum, Texas.

I have been using your seeds for the past eight years, and cannot praise them too highly. Your Enormous and Success Tomatoes are the best I ever raised. I sent a crate of Success Tomatoes to the fair at St. Louis, and got the premium.

H. H. WARMATH, Humboldt, Tenn.

My garden for the last two years has been quite a success from using your seeds; they are clean, fresh and ready growers, and I cannot praise them too highly. I have the first cabbage in my neighborhood; peas and beans in abundance, and the new Icicle Radishes are grand.

MRS. C. F. NELSON, Fredonia, Kan.

The seeds ordered of you were most satisfactory.

GEO. W. THOMAS, Cliftondale, Mass.

Kerby, Ohio, Sept. 17th, 1910.

Seeds ordered from you have been received and wish to thank you for promptness. Am well pleased and will remember you again when in want of anything in the seed line.

WM. MAHLE.

Almadale, La., Sept. 1st, 1910.

I have tried seeds from a number of seed houses, but have found your seeds the best I have ever yet tried.

Truly yours, JAMES E. WALKER.

I have used your seeds for twenty-five years and never had a failure in that time. Have planted them from Galveston, Texas, to Hagerman, New Mexico, and they always gave entire satisfaction.

W. S. DAVISSON, Hagerman, New Mexico.

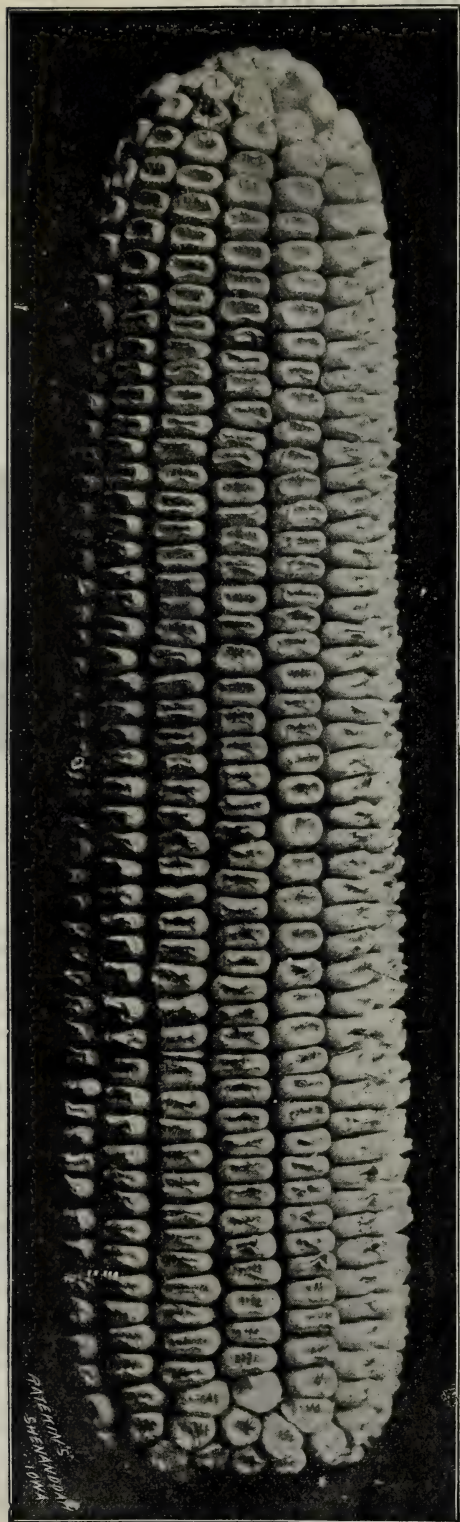
I used your seeds for four years and had a better garden than any of my neighbors, except this year, I failed to get your seeds, the result being a complete failure; nothing that I planted grew.

MRS. SUE FARMWALT, Jefferson City, Tenn.

I have bought my garden seeds from you for the past 15 years and have always found them just as represented—true to name and of the very best germination. Your seeds grow. If everybody sold as good seeds as you do there would be no room for complaint by anyone. Truly yours,

JOHN TENYON, St. Charles, Mo.

RATEKIN'S GOLDEN YELLOW DENT.



RATEKIN'S GOLDEN YELLOW DENT is a new introduction, first brought out and introduced by us in 1910, and as its name implies, is a golden yellow dent corn of the highest and best type to be obtained from cross breeding.

ITS ORIGIN: Eight years ago among, perhaps, two or three hundred specimen ears that were sent to us by farmers and corn growers, we received a typical ear of yellow corn from a prominent corn grower in Indiana, with a request to plant it on our trial grounds. This ear of corn was well high perfect in every essential point, except it did not bear that rich golden color, always so attractive to the eye; therefore, we went to our drying house where we had stored some special specimen ears of our "Pride of Nishna," yellow, and selected another typical ear, one of the deepest golden rich yellow color we could find and put these two ears of corn together and at planting time we planted the two varieties together, planting alternately, every other row, of each variety and at the proper time, after the tassel appeared, before bloom, the tassels were pulled out of all the rows and stalks of one of the varieties; thus making the cross on that row as perfect as possible to start with; but it is a law of nature that in the origination of new varieties, to revert back to their original types and to perfect and get a well established variety of corn, it is necessary to select and follow up year after year, always following up the model parent ear first designed or intended. At the same time, in selecting from your seed plot, it is quite necessary to take notice of the stalks upon which the ears are produced. A good, strong, robust stalk is just as essential in corn breeding as a good bone is in animal breeding. The best ears of corn are generally produced on good, strong, robust stalks of medium height, seven to ten feet tall.

DESCRIPTION: "Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent" is about as near perfect and contains as many real essential points as any pure bred yellow dent corn that has ever been introduced. During the past two years we have grown this variety of corn only to a limited extent, for the reason that conservative farmers are usually cautious and reluctant about risking their entire crop to some new or untried variety, and we are equally cautious about giving our unreserved and unqualified endorsement and recommendation to any variety of seeds until they have been thoroughly tried out and passed all experimental stages. This would be not only very injurious to us, from a business standpoint, but equally harmful to our customers and our trade.

EARLY MATURITY: In breeding this new variety of corn, we have kept uppermost in mind a **LARGE EARED, EARLY MATURING CORN**—a variety that would give the largest yield and make itself in the shortest possible length of time. In this we have succeeded even beyond our hopes and best expectations, and can fully recommend this corn in every respect to mature safely and soundly in any county in Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, and from there south in from 90 to 110 days good corn weather, and that there is no variety, white or yellow, that will grow more bushels of good, sound well matured corn per acre than this variety.

CHARACTERISTICS: Stalk, strong and robust, very leafy, broad blades, ranging from 7 to 12 feet high, dependent upon the land; ears run from 9 to 12 inches long and from 7 to 8 inches in circumference, 16 to 22 rows, usually about 18, deep grain solidly set on small red cob.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 ear, 40c; 1 lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.25; by freight, purchaser's expense, 1 peck, \$1.00; ½ bu., \$1.75; 1 bu., \$3.00; 2 bu., \$5.50; 4 bu. and over, \$2.50 per bushel; bags free, f. o. b. Shenandoah. If wanted in ear, boxed, add 75c per bushel to above prices.

Ratekin's Big Banner White



(Ratekin's Big Banner White).

Here is another new introduction, never before catalogued, although introduced in a limited way by us last year, and from the splendid reports that have come to us from everywhere, as well as own experience and personal knowledge of its breeding, its adaptability to a wide range of conditions, including climate and soil, we have not the least hesitation in recommending this corn to our customers and the trade in general everywhere.

This corn is a cross between two of the best known good varieties grown. Briefly told, it is a cross between Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine and the Boone County White, which we have been working on, hybridizing and breeding up to a distinct character for the past seven years; thus establishing a variety of strong character, uniformity in size, color and shape, which we have aimed to accomplish before offering it as a new introduction. At the very beginning, we started out believing and knowing these two varieties could be blended together in a way that would be an improvement over either of them, and we now believe we have perfected in this new corn a variety that will become more famous than either its parents have ever been.

As every corn growing farmer knows who has tried it, the Iowa Silver Mine has proven of greater tenacity, life and vigor to resist unfavorable conditions, extreme drouth, hot weather, etc., than any other variety of corn in existence—that it is a variety that does better on poor, thin or old land, and yet on good rich land it has shown larger and bigger yields than any other variety in the world, and has taken more premiums and prizes at county, state and national fairs and corn shows than any other one variety of corn in existence.

The Boone County White, with which the cross was made, is a somewhat larger eared and larger stalk than Iowa Silver Mine; also somewhat later, requiring 10 to 20 days longer to mature, but withal we believe in this cross we have combined together one of the best varieties of corn that has ever been produced. This prediction has been so thoroughly verified from our own experience and reports from those who tried this corn out last year that we feel justified in giving our unqualified endorsement and recommendation of it to the farmers, and we want every corn grower who plants corn to try at least a few bushels of it the coming season.

DESCRIPTION: Ratekin's Big Banner White is a pure bred white variety; every stalk produces from one to two good well developed ears, running from 8 to 12 inches in length and from 7 to 8½ inches in circumference, containing from 16 to 22 rows deep grains solidly set on a medium size white cob; stalks grow from 7 to 12 feet in height, dependent on ground planted on; broad blades and a lot of them, making it an excellent variety for fodder or ensilage purposes; matures in 100 to 110 days from planting, and yields on good corn land under ordinary tillage from 60 to 100 bushels per acre, good, sound, solid, well matured corn.

PRICE: Postpaid, one ear, 40c; 1 lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.25; by freight or express, purchaser's expense, peck, \$1.00; ½ bu., \$1.75; 1 bu., \$3.00; 2 bu., \$5.50; 4 bu. and over, \$2.50 per bushel. If wanted in ear, boxed, add 75c per bushel to above prices.

Diamond Joe's Big White Seed Corn

146 BUSHELS PER ACRE—THE EARLIEST WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD (SELECT EARS).



Diamond Joe's Big White



THE CORN THAT MADE 146 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

This wonderful variety of white corn was originated and first introduced by us six years ago, and is now acknowledged by farmers, planters and corn growers everywhere the "King of all White Corn." When we catalogued this corn the first year, although we had about seven thousand bushels, our entire stock was exhausted long before the season was over. Since then we have grown it much more extensively, but each succeeding year the demand for it has increased until we have always sold out long before planting time was over. Those who were fortunate enough to secure some of this corn won a prize, and everywhere doubled their yields and without exception were well pleased. In fact, it would make one gasp with astonishment to see and read the reports that come to us about the wonderful yields this corn has made. From nowhere comes a word of disappointment, but all are enthusiastic and loud in its praise when husking time comes. "DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE" is incomparable with any other corn we have ever before grown or handled in all our 28 years' experience, white or yellow. It is especially well adapted to old or thin land, and on good strong corn ground, there is no variety in the world that makes more big bushels of good, sound, solid, well matured corn to the acre.

POINTS OF SUPREMACY OVER OTHER VARIETIES.

1. It is pure and a distinct variety.
2. It is a strong, vigorous, robust grower from the start.
3. It is absolutely free from barren stalks, every stalk bearing one or more well developed ears.
4. It is very early to mature, making itself anywhere in 100 days or less.
5. It will thrive and do well in extreme drouth, where other varieties fail.
6. In short, "DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE" is a superior variety of corn from every point of view. If you are looking for the corn that will make you the most bushels and the most money, stop right now and order enough to plant your entire crop. It's the corn that will do it.

PRICES: Sample ear, postpaid, 25c; 1 lb., postpaid, 25c; 3 lbs., 70c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.25; peck, 75c; half bushel, \$1.40; 1 bushel, \$2.50; 2 bushels, \$4.50; 5 bushels and upward, \$2.20 per bushel. Bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in ear or box, add 75c per bushel to foregoing prices.

Strong Testimonials

FROM PRACTICAL FARMERS FROM EVERYWHERE.

It may be of interest to you to know that I won **FIRST PRIZE, \$100.00 IN GOLD**, at the corn show of all the New England States for the production of the largest yield per acre of sound, well matured corn. This prize was awarded me on my crop grown from the Diamond Joe's Big White corn I got from you, and which made an average yield of 132½ bushels shelled corn per acre on my farm in **PLYMOUTH COUNTY, MASS.**

If you have a big yellow corn as early as Diamond Joe's Big White, I want to try it. Send me a copy of your new catalogue as soon as ready for mailing.

Very truly yours, **A. WEBSTER BUTLER.**

Jefferson Parish, La., August 20th, 1911.

Mr. J. W. Ratekin, Mgr. Ratekin's Seed House:

Dear Sir—Replying to your letter of recent date in regard to the seed corn bought from you last spring, would say, I got six bushels Diamond Joe's Big White, six bushels Wallace's Favorite and three bushels your Iowa Silver Mine. It was all planted 21st, 22d and 23d February. It came up quickly, grew off faster, done better and come to maturity a month ahead of our native sorts; about May 15th was in good roasting ear. This was earlier and quicker than any corn I have ever planted here and I have been growing corn for the past sixteen years. I am not able to tell you the yield it made per acre, as I picked and sold all of it in the roasting ear, but it all made remarkable big yields. Diamond Joe's Big White taking the lead over all the other varieties. It is the earliest big eared corn by far I have ever seen, but the Iowa Silver Mine chased close after it. I shall want a lot of seeds the coming season, and will remember you with my orders when ready to send for them. Very truly yours,

DOMINECK PITTARI.

The Diamond Joe's Big White Seed corn I got from you last spring was first-class in every respect. You may be interested to know I took first premium at the Green County fair on an exhibit of some of my corn grown from the seed I got from you.

Green County, Ill., Oct. 28th.

Very truly yours, **W. L. TOALSON.**

(Continued on next page.)

Continued from page 18 (STRONG TESTIMONIALS.)

What Farmers Say of Diamond Joe's Big White THE CORN THAT MADE 146 BUSHELS PER ACRE.

The Diamond Joe's Big White received from you last spring was planted May 10th and 11th, had one harrowing and three cultivations; cultivated with surface cultivator. The ground was new and strong and season fine. I have just finished husking it, and from 24 acres I have 2,460 bushels of the finest corn I have ever grown, or seen grown in Nebraska. The seed grew to a grain; the stand was perfect, the ground was strong and was cultivated in proper season, and there was scarcely a missing hill in the 24 acres. To say I am delighted with results does not half tell the story. I forgot to say, this corn was the earliest to mature of any in this locality, and must say it is a golden combination for this country. Truly yours,

Hamilton County, Neb., Dec. 10th.

SAMUEL G. SMITH.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

Gentlemen—I have just finished husking my corn and want to tell you about my Diamond Joe's Big White. The five bushels I got was the finest looking corn I ever put into a corn planter box. It was planted April 29th and 30th, and grew to a grain. On 35 acres there was scarcely a missing hill. After five days I harrowed it. In 10 days it was all through the ground, and a week later I commenced plowing it. I plowed it every ten days until gone over three times, laying it by June 20th; by the first of August it was in good roasting ear, and by the 15th was hard. It was full ten days ahead of our native sorts to mature, planted at same time. Well, when I commenced husking I weighed every pound on the 35 acres—75 lbs. per bushel—and it gave a yield of 3,460 bushels, or a little over 98 bushels per acre, which is the best yield I have ever known in Lyon county off the same number of acres. I now want to try some of your Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent. Send your catalog as soon as ready for mailing.

Lyon County, Kansas, Nov. 25th.

Grady County, Oklahoma, Oct. 20th.

Yours truly, JOHN FORSYTH.

Ratekin's Seed House.

I write to say that Diamond Joe's Big White seed corn ordered and received from you last spring arrived in good shape and was planted April 15th and 16th, and must say I am delighted with results. Off 30 acres I have gathered over 2,400 bushels of corn, every ear a solid one. It made a yield of almost twice as much per acre as our native corn, and matured fully two weeks earlier. It is the corn for this country. Now I want to try some of Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent next year, and trust you will mail me catalog as soon as out for 1910. With many thanks for promptness and courtesies shown, I remain,

Yours truly, JAMES FAIRALL.

Mr. R. W. Ratekin:

Dear Sir—I write to say that I have now finished husking my crop of corn, including the 40 acres of Diamond Joe's Big White planted from the six bushels of seed obtained from you last year, and am glad to say it gave me a yield of 4,100 bushels of the finest corn I have ever grown, and I have farmed for the last 37 years. It's large uniform ears were almost like sticks of stove wood and I believe there was scarcely one stalk in each hundred but what produced one good ear and many of them two. I want to send for some of Ratekin's Golden Yellow Dent in a short time, and will be under obligations to you if you will mail me a copy of your seed book as soon as issued.

McClain County, Illinois, Dec. 27th.

Morrow County, Ohio, Dec. 25th.

Very truly yours, JOHN M. LONG.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah Iowa:

Last year I sent you an order, as your books will show, for two bushels of your Diamond Joe's Big White. I planted it May 15th, and it grew almost to a grain and has been the wonder of everyone who has seen it. Some people drove twenty miles and more to see it, and everyone who looked at it said they were well paid for their trip. I now have more than 200 bushels engaged for seed at \$1.50 per bushel. The crop is good for at least 1,200 bushels. Kindly mail me your new catalog for the coming season as soon as issued. I shall want a full assortment of seeds this year, and you will get my order. Respectfully,

JOHN W. ALLEN.

Gentlemen—The DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE seed corn I received from you last spring is doing fine. We have had a very severe drouth here from March 22nd to August 3rd, and much of the corn was thoroughly dried out and burned up, but I am pleased to say that my crop from your seed is looking fine and will make a good crop. There are from one to three good, big, nice ears on every stalk.

Durham County, N. C., Aug. 21, 1911.

Very truly yours, ANDREW KURTZ.

The DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE seed corn I got from you last spring has grown ten feet high and every stalk has two good ears. I measured some of them this morning. They run from 9 to 11 inches long. This corn was planted in very poor land, and we have had no rain since April 30th until July 28th, but the dry weather did not stop or prevent it from growing. Please make me prices on clover and timothy seed. Let me hear from you by return mail.

Calloway County, Mo., Aug. 17, 1911.

Yours very truly, L. A. TOMLINSON.

Please send me your seed wheat catalogue. If your seed wheat is as good as your DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE Seed Corn I got from you I sure want some of it. Notwithstanding the unfavorable conditions and extreme dry weather we have had I got a splendid crop of corn from Diamond Joe's Big White Corn that I got from you. It is all that I could hope or wish for. Yours truly,

Taney County, Mo., Sept. 12, 1911.

C. F. SNOW.

207 BUSHELS FROM TWO ACRES IN LAWRENCE COUNTY, INDIANA

Farmers and others have been attracted by the exhibition of corn that has been in the window at Dille's store for some time. It was grown by J. W. Dale, and two acres produced 207 bushels and 50 pounds, which is perhaps the largest yield of corn ever known in this community. Mr. Dale says the moles took many of the seed, and but for this fact the yield would have been even better. In gathering the corn great care was taken to keep the top and bottom ears, main crop, sucker ears and nubbins separate. The choicest of the main crop Mr. Dale will save for seed.

The corn is white, long even ears, and is known as "RATEKIN'S DIAMOND JOE." Two hundred and fifty pounds of fertilizer was used to the acre. The ground was in good order for planting, but no extra work was done in the way of cultivation.—Mitchell Tribune, Indiana.

UTAH AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (Experimental Station).

It gives me pleasure to report the yield of seed corn donated by you last year as follows: The Diamond Joe's Big White yielded 89 6-10 bushels per acre; Queen of Nishna yielded 74 2-10 bushels. Both of these varieties of corn are good yielders here, yielding also a large quantity of fodder per acre.

Logan, Utah, Jan. 4th, 1911.

I should be pleased to have you send me for experimental purposes some Speltz or Emmer; also a few pounds of Ratekin's Giant Shenandoah Fodder Corn and a few pounds of Red Cob Fodder Corn. Very truly yours,

J. C. HOGENSON, Agronomist.

You will no doubt be pleased to know that I took first prize at our recent fair and corn show with Diamond Joe's Big White Corn from crop grown from seed I sent to you for. The prize ear measured 15 inches in length. Pretty good corn for Oregon, isn't it? Very truly yours,

Cove, Union County, Oregon, Jan. 27th, 1911.

J. M. RUNDALL.

(Continued on page 20.)

(Continued from Page 19.)

Diamond Joe's Big White GREATEST CORN IN THE WORLD.

THE CORN THAT HAS CAPTIVATED THE ENTIRE
CORN WORLD.

Van Buren County, Ark., Jan. 18th, 1911.
I got splendid good results from the Diamond Joe's Big White, and also from your Mammoth Iowa Yellow Dent Seed Corn I purchased from you. Yours truly,

S. E. McMAHON.

El Paso County, Colo., Jan. 10th, 1911.
Thinking perhaps you would be pleased to know how the Diamond Joe's Big White done on this high, dry climate, would say I planted and tested out thirteen different varieties last year, and the Diamond Joe beat them all. After planted and when up we had a frost that cut it down to the ground. Then we had six or eight weeks of dry weather, no rain, and then on August 26th we had a heavy frost, which cut all corn short, but despite all this it made me forty bushels per acre. Very truly,

J. C. WILLIAMS.

Lincoln County, Oklahoma, Feb. 10th, 1911.
I am pleased to tell you that Diamond Joe's Big White makes good, rain or no rain. I planted it in good time, but it was extremely dry—never had but one rain from time it come up until it was too late to be of any benefit to corn, yet it made me a fair crop and about three times as much per acre as our native sorts. Anyone could go across the field and tell to the row and last hill to where Diamond Joe was planted. For myself I will plant no other variety this year. Truly yours,

JAMES F. JORDAN.

Hardin County, Ky., Jan. 10th, 1911.
Please don't forget to send me a catalogue as soon as ready for mailing, as I surely want one. The Diamond Joe Seed Corn I got from you last spring was fine, gave me splendid results and proved all you claimed for it. I am well pleased. Truly yours,

CHAS. L. SEIBERT.

Vigo County, Ind., April 22nd, 1911.
I have used your seeds for three years and always got the best of results. The Diamond Joe Big White is the best corn I have ever grown. It is all you claim for it. Sincerely,

H. L. CONLEY.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI—(Agricultural Experiment Station).

Columbia, Mo., March 22.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:
I was pleased with the manner in which you responded to my letter of 17th inst., and thank you sincerely for your co-operation. The seed corn has arrived and I find it of excellent quality. However, your shipping clerk forgot to label the varieties. Of course I know the white is Diamond Joe's Big White, but don't know the name or variety of the yellow. (It was "Ratekin's Golden Yellow.") Very sincerely,

F. H. DEMAREE, Instructor.

El Paso County, Colo., May 6.
The carload of seeds ordered for my use, consisting of seed corn, oats, barley, alfalfa and other seeds, reached here on time and in excellent good shape, and will say that it was the finest seeds in quality I have ever seen or had anything to do with, and think the finest that has ever been introduced into this country. I will write you again when the crop is made and tell you how it pans out. Very truly yours,

W. C. HANKS.

Ohio Land and Farming Co., Toledo, Ohio, Aug. 12.
If your Winter Wheat is as good as your Seed Corn we want some of it. We have 35 acres of corn grown from Ratekin's Mammoth Yellow Dent, and it is the best corn in our 200 acres we have this year. We will want 75 bushels of your New Malakoff Wheat. Make us best and lowest quotations on this amount. Your truly,

OHIO LAND AND FARMING CO.

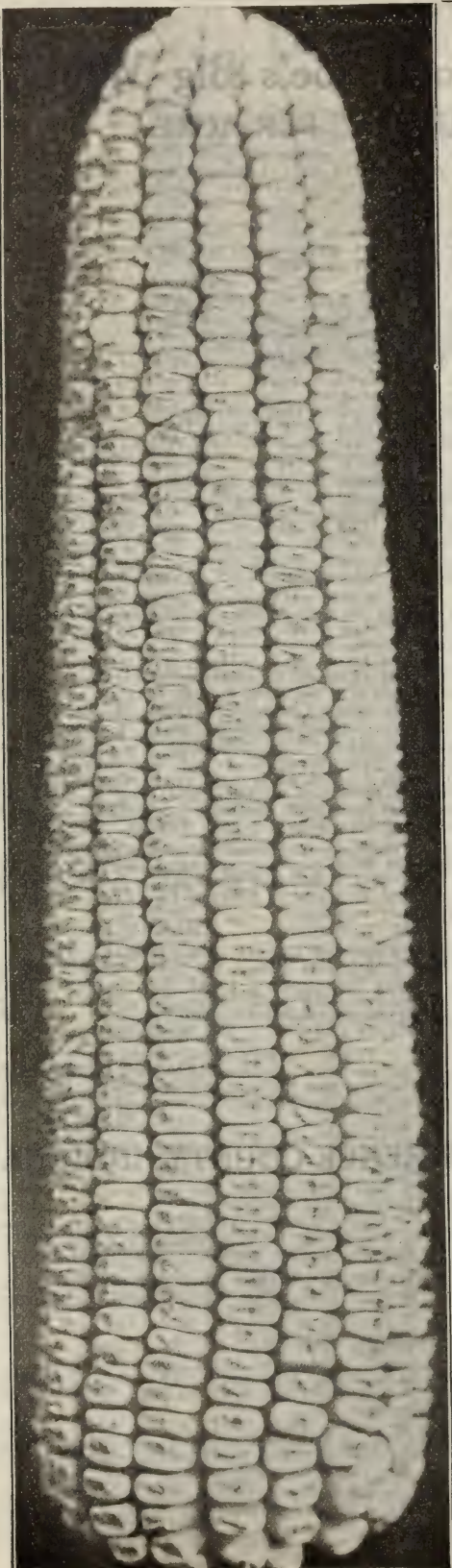
The Seed Corn I bought for my Arkansas farms and had sent to Clarence Vollmer, Ponset County, last year gave splendid satisfaction, although we had sixty-three days' drouth, beginning July 8th. Enclosed find draft for \$61.50 for Timothy and Alsike Clover Seed. Ship promptly, same address as before given, Clarence Vollmer, Ponset County, Ark. Very truly yours,

E. B. BOYD, Warren County, Ill.

October 20.

Lincoln County, Miss., Aug. 10, 1911.
The natives here claim that Alfalfa cannot be successfully grown. If their advice is in this respect of the same quality as they graciously furnished in regard to northern grown seed corn I don't take much stock in it. I wish you could see our varieties of your Pride of Nishna that is now in full roasting ear here on the same ground that raised Silver Mine. Please send me sample of Alfalfa, Winter Vetch and Crimson Clover. Any advice or suggestions that you can make on the above subject will be appreciated. Yours truly,

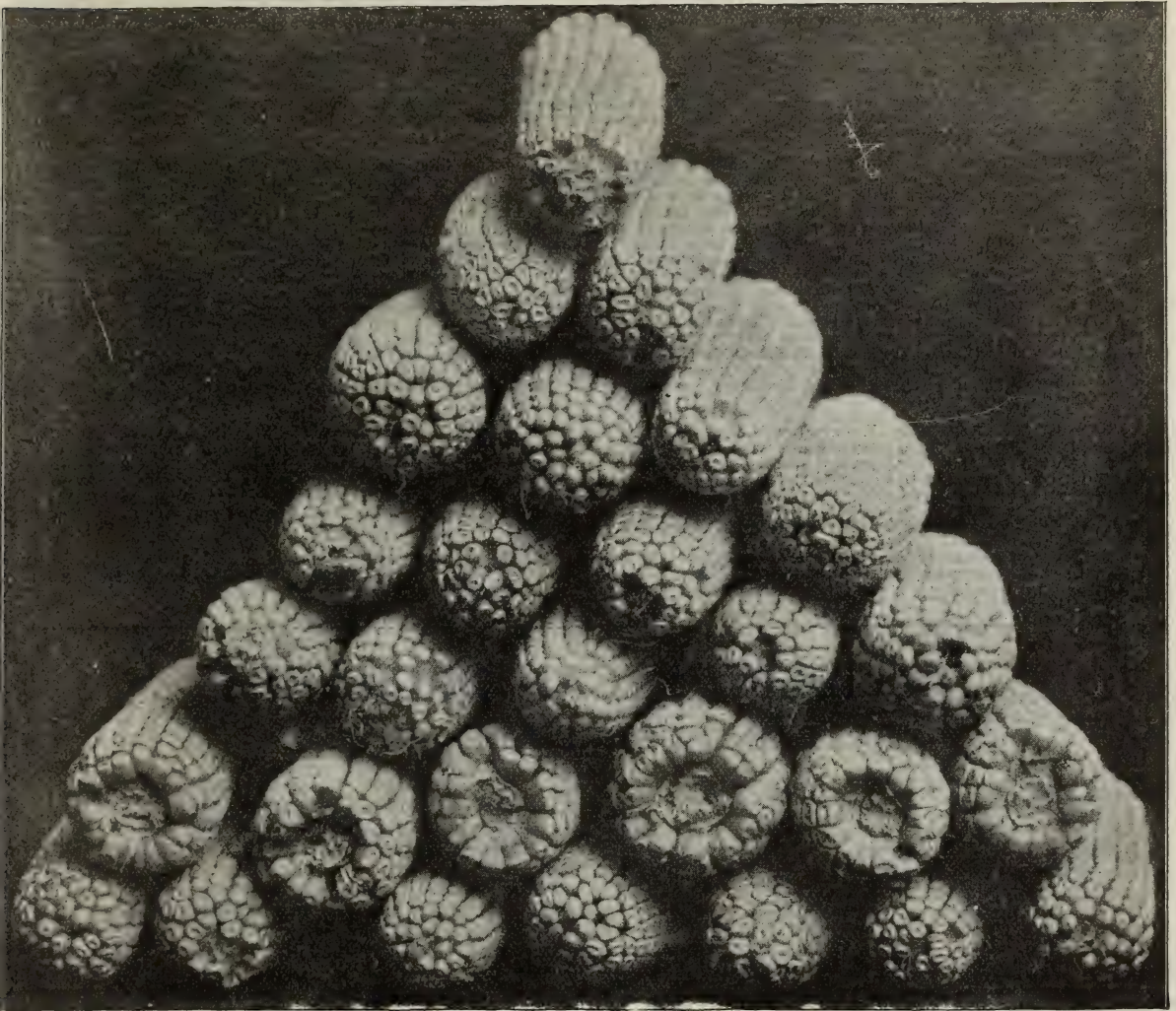
CAPT. F. A. JERNIGAN.



DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE

Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine White Corn

THE GREATEST RECORD OF ANY WHITE CORN IN THE WORLD.



THIS FAMOUS VARIETY OF CORN IS ONE THAT NEVER FAILS TO MAKE GOOD.

IT IS AN ABSOLUTE FACT THAT "RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" has made the greatest record of any white corn on earth and has captured the hearts of our customers all over the world.

We have now been growing and improving this corn for the past fifteen years, during which time we have made it our leader before originating and introducing our Diamond Joe's Big White, and have sent seed of it to every state in the Union; also to many of the foreign countries, including South Africa, Philippine Islands, New Zealand, India, Australia and the Argentine, and everywhere it has proven a great success and shown to be adapted to a wider range of conditions than any variety of corn that has ever been originated, introduced or tried.

"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" is noted for its great vitality to withstand and resist extreme conditions of weather, wet or dry; also hot weather, and makes good crops where other sorts wither, burn up and perish under dry, hot winds and scorching sunshine.

Each year that we have grown this corn for our trade we have sought to select and improve it in every way possible, not so much to increase the size of the ears, but to increase the uniformity of size and also the number of ears to the stalk, and have thus absolutely eliminated the barren, weak and sickly stalks, and are pleased in the belief that we have brought this corn up to the highest standard of **PERFECTION**, both in **YIELD** and **EARLY MATURITY**.

There is scarcely a township or neighborhood anywhere that corn is grown but what some of your neighbors can tell you about **"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE"** Corn, and the splendid results obtained from it. In view of this we do not deem it necessary, if space would permit, to print even a partial list of names and testimonials we have received pertaining to this wonderful corn.

"RATEKIN'S IOWA SILVER MINE" CORN: The Iowa Silver Mine is not a new variety of corn, but is one of the oldest and best known sorts, and on account of its great popularity and the wonderful record it has made there are thousands of bushels of mongrel white corn offered and sold every year under the name of Iowa Silver Mine that is no kin to **RATEKIN'S PURE BRED STOCK**, and is incomparable in every essential quality with **RATEKIN'S** genuine stock that has been kept pure and bred up and improved from year to year.

(See next page for descriptions, page 22.)

Ratekin's Iowa Silver Mine White Corn

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense; Pk., 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 4 bu., \$1.75; 5 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

DIVIDEND PECAN ORCHARDS BRING DESIRED RESULTS

The Home of the Tamworth Hog.

Pigs for sale at all times.

We have land to give away to actual white settlers.

We have the largest Tamworth Board in the world according to age.

We will build you a house, buy or rent you a farm at cost.

We will put you in an orchard of the best budded and grafted pecan or fruit trees reasonably and on easy terms.

We use Ratekin's fruit trees only.

Bogue Chitto, Miss., July 31st, 1911.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa:

Gentlemen: Your "Silver Mine" and "Diamond Joe" Seed Corn has proved our salvation here this year on account of its earliness in getting ahead of the dry weather. It had been unusually dry all winter and spring, no rain to amount to anything until the 18th of June, by which time our corn had begun to harden in the field, while that from southern seed was already dried up and had to be plowed up and planted over. On one measured acre we gathered seventy-five bushels of "Silver Mine," which is about the average of our field. We are now raising a crop of "Pride of Nishna" on the same ground which is in full silk and tassel. Our neighbors laughed at us, called us very foolish when we refused to take their advice and planted your northern seed, but now the laugh is on the other side, as the best any of them have done is about twenty-five bushels per acre. You can count on us as a permanent patron in the future. We also wish to thank you for the patient, painstaking and prompt replies to insignificant small questions with which we have bothered you, and your all around courteous treatment of us during the whole time that we have been doing business with you. Yours very truly,

Rock County, Wis., Nov. 1.

I planted the "IOWA SILVER MINE" Seed Corn I ordered from you last spring from May 18th to 23d, and obtained a perfect stand, not a hill or stalk missing, plowed four times. It matured finely, and I have husked it, yielding seventy-five bushels per acre. I think making a full third more per acre than our native sorts. It's the best corn I have ever seen grown in the state of Wisconsin. Yours very truly,

O. J. LUNN.

Capt. F. F. Farnigan
Manager.

LETTERS FROM PLEASED CUSTOMERS FROM EVERYWHERE.

The following is only an index to many thousand letters we have received from our one hundred and fifty thousand old customers, every one of which we would be pleased to print and publish if space would permit, but at best our space is overcrowded to a point that we cannot in all cases do justice to descriptions, manner of planting, etc., and print but a small part of them.

I am pleased to report results from seeds I got from you last year. From the onion seeds I grew twenty bushels averaging a half pound each. The beets run from 8 to 12½ pounds each. The Hubbard squashes are fine. Among them was one that weighed fifty pounds. **I TOOK ELEVEN PRIZES AND PREMIUMS** on vegetables grown from seeds bought from you at our recent county fair. Am going to attend another fair tomorrow and hope to carry away some additional premiums. With kind regards and best wishes I am yours very truly.

J. N. McLEAN, Humboldt, Kan.

I have just received your catalogue, which reminds me to say I planted my crop to your **IOWA SILVER MINE** White Corn last year, and as a result find that if my entire crop had been planted from it I would have had three times as much corn per acre as I got from our best native sorts. In short, I found it everything you claim for it.

JOHN W. WILSON, Wilson County, Tenn.

Please send me a catalogue at once—don't care if it is an old one. I bought seeds from you in 1907, and they gave most perfect satisfaction, and I want to send to you again this season for a lot of seeds.

W. R. LANDER, Gracey, Ky.

I received my order of seeds yesterday and found everything all O. K.

C. W. NOWLIN, Kearns, Texas.

Have received my seeds' ordered from you; everything all right—first-class.

C. F. HORTON, Pennington, Texas.

Received my seeds all O. K. and well pleased with them.

J. H. SHOEMAKER, Tulla, Texas.

The remainder of my seed corn has arrived and I wish to thank you for promptness in tracing and rushing it through to me.

C. A. STEPHENS, Porum, Okla.

I have received my seeds, all O. K., and wish to thank you for promptness.

M. F. CARCY, Lebanon, Tenn.

Seed corn received today in good shape; looks fine. Yours truly, W. M. MORRIS, Wynne, Ark.

I want some seed corn. I have always got seed from you; ship me two bushels each of your **IOWA SILVER MINE** and **PRIDE OF NISHNA**. I have not had your catalog, and do not know the price. Planting time is at hand, please ship seed and I will mail you check for same.

WAYNE HORTON, Randolph County, Mo.

Ratekin's Seed House: My corn crop is matured, everybody says they have never seen such corn before. The spring was very wet and I planted my first planting the middle of June; the second the last of the month, and the third on last July 11. The first is now dry enough to grind like old corn. Some of my neighbors estimate the yield of my crop at 75 bu. per acre, where I heretofore only got 30 to 40 bushels. In short, my crop is simply immense as compared with crops from our native sorts. Kindly send me your 1909 seed catalog as soon as it is printed—will want some more seeds the coming year. Very truly yours,

(PROF.) T. R. SCOTT, Ballard County, Ky.

Ratekin's Seed House, Shenandoah, Iowa—Gentlemen: Ratekin's seed corn has given splendid satisfaction on my place and I take pleasure in recommending it to our southern farmers and planters. It's the sure thing for the south.

T. L. SORRELS, Clarks, La.

Curoe, Tenn.

I am pleased to say the **Diamond Joe's Big White** Seed Corn I got from you has done fine and that I am greatly pleased with it.

Yours truly, R. L. GILLIAM

I want you to know that the "**Diamond Joe's Big White**" Seed Corn I got from you last spring made me a splendid crop.

W. R. DUNN, Polk County, Iowa.

"**Diamond Joe's Big White**" Seed Corn I got from you last spring made me the finest crop I ever grew. I was at the Illinois State Fair and am confident I can show better corn than any on exhibition there. In fact, I found all the seeds I ordered from you of best quality and just as recommended.

CHARLES RASMUSSEN, Bureau County, Ill.
Nov. 1, 1909.

The half bushel of "**Diamond Joe's Big White**" Seed Corn I got from you last spring made me a yield of 170 bushels per acre. I think this pretty good for this state. If anyone can beat it I should like to hear from him.

HERMAN OLMINKHOF, Ottawa County, Mich.

The "**Diamond Joe's Big White**" Seed Corn gave exceptional and splendid results; every stalk producing one, and many of them two good ears, thus materially increasing the yield over other sorts. Inclosed find my order for various kinds of seed for the coming season.

J. D. VINES, Hackleburg, Ala., Jan.

You doubtless remember my order for 10 bushels of seed corn sent you last spring. I found the corn all right and as good as advertised, especially your "**PRIDE OF NISHNA**" and "**IOWA SILVER MINE**." Some of my crop from your "**SILVER MINE**" went over 100 bushels per acre. Yours truly,

C. H. ARMANN, Lancaster County, Neb.

It is a pleasure to say that the seed corn I ordered from you last year was everything and more than you claimed for it. The weather and season was extremely dry, yet withal, I raised a very fine crop of corn. In fact, all the seeds I got from you did remarkably well. I raised twelve hills of your Big 225 lb. Pumpkins, two vines to the hill, from which I had 111 pumpkins; the smallest weighing 43 lbs. and the largest 81 lbs. Considering the extreme dry weather, I think this a very fine showing.

W. J. WILSON, Butler County, Ohio.

Your letter enclosing check refund of \$5.80 for seed lost in transit by the railroad companies, is before me. I am under obligations to you for the manner in which you do business. We shall want considerable amount of seeds next year and will remember you. Kindly let me have your catalog as soon as ready for distribution.

EDWIN S. WERTZ, Wooster, Ohio.

Referring to your letter and shipment of seed corn to me at Barnhart, Mo., will say seed arrived all right and is very satisfactory in every way.

WM. R. BARNHART (Pres. Barnhart Mer. Co.,
St. Louis, Mo.)

It is with much pleasure I write you to say my seed corn has arrived and I think it the finest lot of seed corn I have ever seen. In fact, I am glad to say that I have struck at least one honest seed house, one that sends out seed equal to their representations, and if I can do anything for you shall be more than pleased to do so.

EDWARD P. FOWL, Napoleon, Ind.

Tama County, Iowa, Sept. 30.

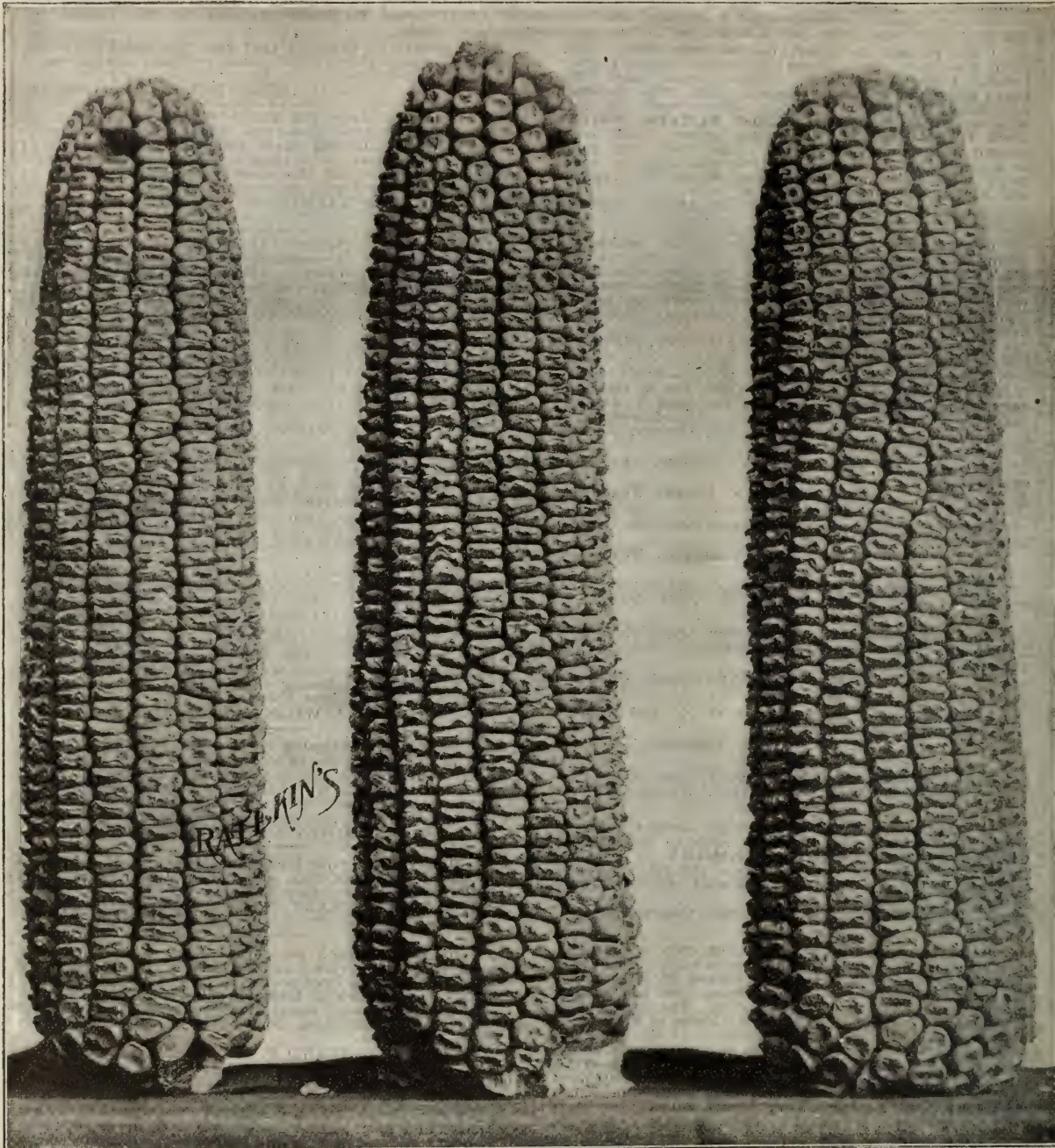
I ordered some of your **PRIDE OF NISHNA** Seed Corn three years ago and some of your **IOWA SILVER MINE** last spring, and have sixty-five acres of these two varieties, and the finest and best corn anywhere about here. It is estimated by good judges that it will make an average yield of 90 to 100 bushels per acre; ears large and perfectly developed.

Very truly yours, MRS. L. E. WEBSTER.

I have been selling Ratekin's Iowa grown seed corn for a number of years and find it has given the very best of results and satisfaction. It never fails to make a good crop with proper planting and cultivation; besides it matures fully four weeks ahead of native sorts. I can fully recommend it to farmers and planters of Louisiana.

G. C. LEWIS, Atlanta, La.

Ratekin's Pride of Nishna



THE STANDARD OF PERFECTION.

PRIDE OF NISHNA. This now "famous" variety of yellow corn was the first variety of corn originated by my father over forty years ago when he lived on the farm, long before we engaged in the seed business, and was the first yellow corn introduced by us 28 years ago when we began the seed corn business. At that time in making a selection of ears for a photographic illustration, we did not have in mind the present day ideas of some of the so-called seed corn specialists, but simply went to our seed corn house and selected out three ordinary common ears of good size that fairly represented the variations in type and character of this corn. As every one knows, about every human being has a similar appearance, but seldom, if ever, are there any two people that look so nearly alike but what they can in some way be distinguished apart. The same rule applies to

(Continued on Page 25.)

RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA—Continued.

corn. All ears of corn have a similar resemblance, but out of the millions of bushels of corn handled by us, we do not remember to have ever found two ears of corn when laid down side by side but what we could see or find a difference somewhere. Thus, when you see some beautiful picture or illustration of one, two or three ears of show corn, don't be carried away with the idea that every ear of corn you expect to get is going to be just like the picture you have seen, but remember these are pictures of ears selected at harvest time when handled ear by ear from perhaps a hundred thousand ears or possibly from a million, and found to be the most perfect of the whole.

Unlike the methods above related, the illustration here given of three ears of our "Pride of Nishna" from a photograph, taken over twenty-five years ago, would say, they fairly represent the variations of this variety of corn except the illustration shows the ears exactly half size in length and circumference.

THIS SPLENDID YELLOW CORN IS A WORLD BEATER.



PHOTO OF "RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA,"
TEXAS GROWN.

(Note big fine ears; lots of feed here).

Among all that is good, "RATEKIN'S PRIDE OF NISHNA" Yellow Corn has, during the past forty years, proven its superiority, time and again over other varieties as a general all purpose field corn, including its extraordinary yield, strength and vitality to resist dry weather and other unfavorable conditions, incident to the making and maturing a corn crop.

As before related, this corn was originated by my father more than forty years ago, here in this locality, and for more than a quarter of a century we have made this excellent variety our leader in yellow corn. During this time we have sold and sent out almost a million bushels of it for seed, sending it to every state in the Union, where corn is grown, and to every county in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Missouri, also every county in Nebraska and Kansas where corn is grown. During the same time we have sent thousands of bushels to all eastern and southern states, and everywhere it has made good and proven to be adapted to a wider range of conditions, including climate, soil and seasons than any variety of yellow corn known or grown. In short, we feel safe in saying that we have as many as fifty thousand unsolicited letters and testimonials from our customers who have tried it, everywhere, testifying to and extolling it as the best, earliest maturing and surest cropper and largest yielder in existence, and recommending it as the best all round variety of yellow corn for grain and ensilage purposes, also general field crop of any variety ever tried. While this corn, owing to its great vigor and vitality, does well on poor, thin, sandy soil or old land, it, like all other varieties, does best on strong, rich corn land. It is here that it attains its highest perfection and produces the largest, heaviest yields, often making 90 to 100 bushels and more per acre under favorable conditions.

If you are a feeder you will find no corn that contains more, if as much, nutritious fattening qualities than "Pride of Nishna." If you market your crop you will not be able to find any variety that will give more, if as many, bushels of good, sound, solid, well matured corn per acre. No corn grower will make any mistake if he plants his entire crop to "Ratekin's Pride of Nishna." We know whereof we speak when we give you this advice.

DESCRIPTION: The stalks grow from 8 to 12 feet high, dependent on the land,—hill or bottom ground—stalks strong and robust, very leafy, broad blades and plenty of them, making an excellent fodder or ensilage corn. Roots almost equal to that of cane sorghum, always resisting wind and storm and standing up well. Ears very uniform in size and shape, cylindrical from butt to tip, running from 9 to 12 inches long and 7 to 8 inches in circumference, containing from 16 to 22 rows of deep kernels solidly set on a medium small red cob, shelling 86 to 88 per cent grains and often even more. A wagon load of this corn weighs out two to four bushels more than ordinary varieties of corn, thus proving its solidity. It is a golden yellow, and a big crib full of it is a beautiful sight to behold. Its potency or power to reproduce is so great that neither dry or wet weather influences its growth and maturity as it does many other sorts. By long and continued selection, the barren, weak and sickly stalks have been eliminated, which has materially increased its yielding qualities. It is the earliest maturing large eared corn known or grown, always making itself safely and soundly beyond danger of frost in from 90 to 100 days good corn weather. Our word for it, it will please you in every respect.

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00; by freight or express at purchaser's expense, peck, 60c; 1/2 bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 4 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bushel. Bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices. (5 bushel lots and over at 10 bushel prices).

"PRIDE OF NISHNA" planted May 4th matured soundly and made average yield of 77 bushels per acre.
JAMES CARPENTER, Lyon County, Iowa.

"PRIDE OF NISHNA" planted May 25th; matured September 15th; best corn in this part of the state.
A. D. BULLARD, Rock County, Wis.

"PRIDE OF NISHNA" bought from you planted May 19th; matured soundly in 100 days and made yield of 100 bushels.
E. C. BEEBE, McHenry County, Illinois.

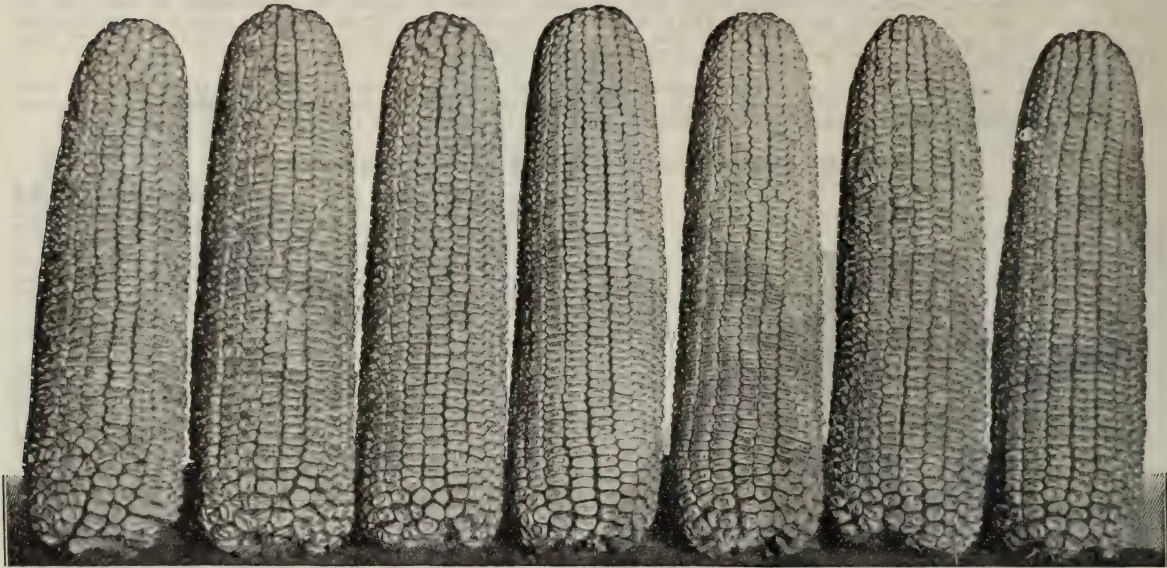
"PRIDE OF NISHNA" planted May 19th; made splendid crop.
WM. SAXE, Sauk County, Wis.

"PRIDE OF NISHNA" got from you done fine, matured well; yielded an average of 72 bushels per acre.
J. R. SHEARON, Union County, So. Dak.

I planted Ratekin's Iowa grown seed corn last year and it made very fine for me in both yield and quality and was fully four weeks earlier to mature than any of our native sorts.

R. DICKINSON, Gulza, La.

Wallace's Favorite THE GIANT WHITE CORN OF IOWA.



We place this superior variety of seed corn before our customers for the fourth year with the renewed assurance that experience of our customers everywhere has demonstrated all that we have ever claimed for it; namely, that this new variety of big white corn has proven one of the best there is grown and is up to the high standard of all our introductions.

In our twenty-eight consecutive years' experience in growing and sending out seed corn, there has been no season but what we have had scores and hundreds of samples sent to us from about everywhere with request that we try them out on our experimental grounds. We wish here to say that we greatly appreciate these favors, altho it is utterly impossible to make a fair trial of all them, but each year we try out many sorts, for it has been our aim from the time we engaged in the growing of seed corn to find and grow and handle only the best varieties, and if there is anything better than the sorts we grow, or which there is a demand for, we want to obtain it.

In **WALLACE'S FAVORITE**, we have found a very superior variety of corn and one that has given remarkable and uniform good results everywhere it has been tried or tested. While we do not claim for it that it will make two, three or four hundred bushels per acre as is claimed by certain seedsmen for some of their corn, we do know it can be relied upon to yield as many bushels of good, sound, solid, well matured corn per acre, inside of 100 to 110 days as any variety of corn to be found in the world, and if planted on good strong ground will yield from 90 to 125 bushels per acre, and even more under perfect conditions.

DESCRIPTION: The stalk is a most robust one, usually growing from 8 to 10 feet high, with long broad leaves extending from joints which are close together and always producing one to three ears to the stalk, running from 8 to 12 inches long, with 16 to 22 rows of very deeply set grains on a pure white cob, and is one of the clearest white varieties grown. We believe this corn will undoubtedly prove a prize winner wherever planted, as it is bound to give tremendous yield. Just think of a field of corn laden down with an average of two good ears to the stalk. Surely this corn will not disappoint your best expectations, and we want every farmer who plants corn the coming season to try it, no matter where you live, east, west, north or south. It is not only good for the grain it grows, but one of the best combination varieties for grain, fodder and ensilage purposes in existence and for a genuine corn for all purposes it will surely please you.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 75c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant an acre), \$1.25, postage prepaid or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, \$1.00; ½ bu., \$1.75; 1 bu., \$3.25; 2 bu., \$6.25; 5 bu. and over, \$3.00 per bushel. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

Marshall County, Iowa, Dec. 1st, 1911.

Gentlemen—I am pleased to say that the seed corn, Wallace's Favorite Giant White, that I purchased from you last spring has done well and proven all you claimed for it. The seed came in good condition. I found it well graded for the planter. It grew almost to a grain, making an excellent stand and the best crop I ever grew. It ripened early and was out of the way of frost by September 5th, and has made me an average yield of 89 bushels per acre, weighed out at 75 pounds per bushel as it came from the field to the crib.

FRANK G. CUNNINGHAM.

Jo Davis County, Illinois, Nov. 20th, 1911.

Gentlemen—Wallace's Giant White has proven a winner for me. From the two bushels of seed I got from you last spring I planted fourteen acres of sod ground and have just finished husking it and I am pleased to tell you it made me a little over eighty bushels per acre.

Very truly yours, JAMES M. KENT.

Marion County, Indiana, Nov. 10th, 1911.

Gentlemen—You will remember that I sent to you for four bushels of Wallace's Favorite Giant White Seed Corn last spring. Well, I have just finished husking my crop of it and am pleased to say I have never grown as fine crop and as good yield as I obtained from this seed. It made an average of 92 bushels per acre, 75 lbs. per bushel. How is that?

Very truly yours, JAMES M. SCHUMAKER.

McClain County, Oklahoma, Nov. 1st, 1911.

Gentlemen—Replying to your inquiry about results from the seed corn I got from you last spring, Wallace's Favorite Giant White, will say, we have had a very dry season here and much of the corn was badly hurt and injured from drouth, but Wallace's Favorite proved to be the almost drouth-proof and I had the best corn I have seen anywhere in this part of the state. It's sure the corn for this country, and for dry weather everywhere.

Truly yours, J. B. MULLIN.



RATEKIN'S IMPERIAL WHITE.

RATEKIN'S IMPERIAL WHITE. We regard this splendid variety of corn as one of our most valuable acquisitions. It was obtained by us from an old German farmer, who brought the seed from Illinois, and was first introduced by us over ten years ago, since which time we have sold and sent out thousands of bushels of it, and it has proven a great favorite with all who have tried it. It is pure white corn, with red cob—a sign within itself of great vitality; ears run from 9 to 12 inches long, measuring from 7 to 8 inches in circumference; 16 to 24 rows of very deep grains firmly set on a small red cob, as shown by the accompanying illustration. The stalks are rather short and heavy, averaging from 7 to 10 feet in height, with a large amount of foliage. This corn does well anywhere and everywhere, and is especially adapted to old, poor and thin land, and will make a good crop where other sorts fail. It is also especially well adapted to the eastern and southern states, and where early drouth and the parching hot weather often hurts and injures native sorts. It matures safely anywhere in from 90 to 100 days; is very solid and compact. We can heartily recommend this corn to our customers as one of the surest croppers and best yielders we grow, and could print hundreds of testimonials from those who have tried it, if space would permit, all verifying what we have said of this splendid variety of corn.

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 bu. to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bushel. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices. (5 bushel lots at 10 bushel prices).

HICKORY KING.

Hickory King is a white variety of field corn which has the largest grains with smallest cob of any corn in existence. The grains are so large and cob so extremely small that when the ear is broken in two pieces a single grain will cover completely the cob section. This corn is of very vigorous habits, is a splendid and sure cropper,



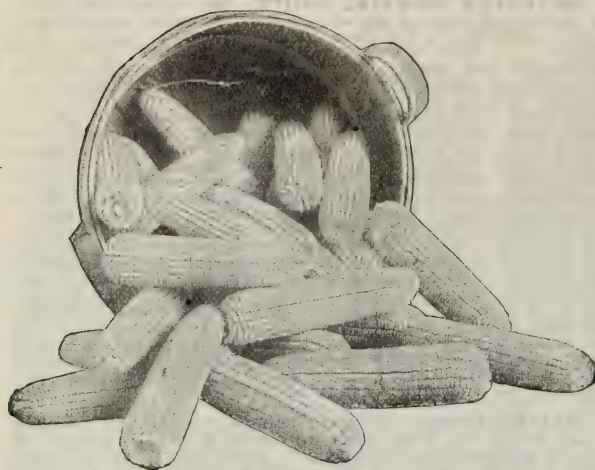
is especially well suited to light or thin soil, and is a very desirable variety and largely planted in many of the southern states. It, however, does well in all the northern and central western states, but it is not as early to mature as our "Pride of Nishna" and "Iowa Silver Mine."

PRICE: Postpaid by mail, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; half bu., \$1.25; 1 bu., \$2.25; 2 bu., \$4.25; 5 bu. and over, \$2.00 per bu. Bags included, f. o. b. cars here.

IT PAYS TO PLANT THE BEST VARIETIES OF SEED CORN.

TO USE OUR THOROUGHbred, INHERITED SEED CORN WILL COST YOU BUT 35 TO 50 CENTS PER ACRE, FREIGHT CHARGES INCLUDED. IT IS, THEREFORE, EVIDENT THAT IF IT PRODUCES BUT ONE BUSHEL MORE PER ACRE THAN OLD RUN OUT SORTS, IT WILL MORE THAN PAY THE EXPENSE OF THE SEED. AND IF YOU GET 20, 30 OR 40 BUSHELS INCREASED YIELD PER ACRE, THERE IS MORE PROFIT IN IT FOR THE MONEY INVESTED, TEN TIMES OVER, THAN ANY STOCK BREEDER EVER REALIZED OR THOUGHT OF. IN CONFIRMATION OF THIS, WE WISH TO AGAIN QUOTE PROF. P. G. HOLDEN, OF THE IOWA STATE EXPERIMENT STATION, OF AMES, IOWA, WHO SAYS: "I TOOK SEED CORN FROM THE CORN PLANTER BOXES OF ONE HUNDRED FARMERS IN STOREY COUNTY, IOWA, NEAR THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, AND PLANTED IN THE TRIAL FIELDS OF THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE. SOME MADE ONLY 20 BUSHELS PER ACRE, WHILE OTHER LOTS YIELDED ALMOST 100 BUSHELS. THIS WIDE DIFFERENCE WAS ALL IN THE SEED. THE LAND AND METHODS BEING IDENTICAL. THE EXPENSE OF GROWING WAS THE SAME. THE BEST SEED AND VARIETIES PRODUCED FULLY FOUR TIMES AS MUCH CORN, OF BETTER QUALITY, THAN DID THE OTHER LOTS OF INFERIOR CORN."

Boone County White



BOONE COUNTY WHITE

LEGAL TENDER.

This is now one of the most prominent varieties of large medium late varieties, and those who have tried it speak very highly of the splendid results obtained from it. It is a very productive corn where seasons will permit of its maturity, and it's no uncommon thing to find ears 12 inches long that weigh from 1 to 1½ pounds each. The stalks grow 10 to 12 feet high with very heavy foliage, which makes it valuable fodder corn. Legal Tender has been a great premium taker, and to those who want a large late variety of corn we firmly believe you will find it a most splendid variety and that it will become a permanent fixture on your farm. Under favorable conditions this variety will mature in 115 to 120 days and seems to be well adapted to the central southern states. Our seed stock of this variety is pure bred of inherited stock, and you can depend upon it giving you the best possible results.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 50c; ½ bu., 90c; 1 to 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu., \$1.60 per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu.

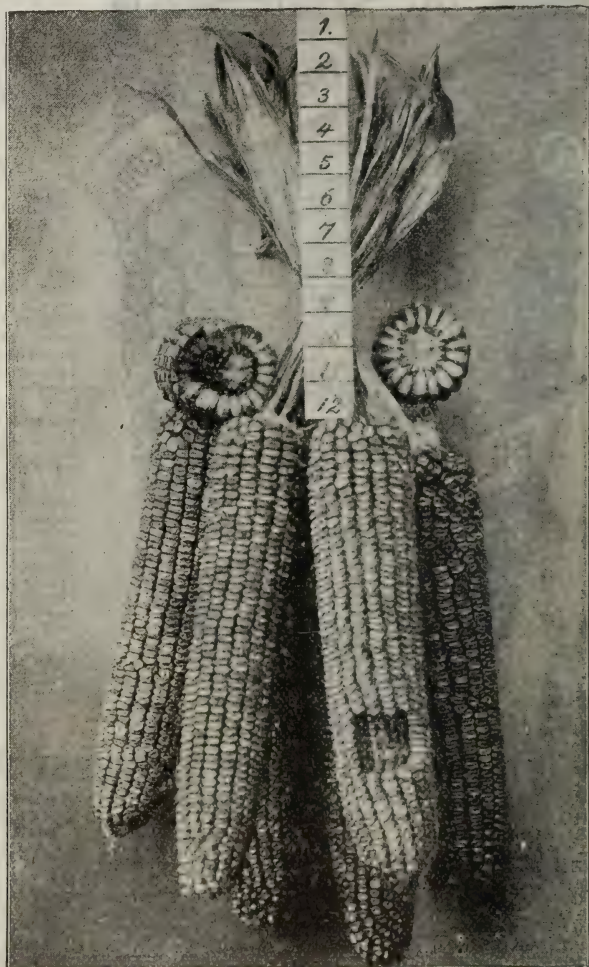
RATEKIN'S IMPROVED CALICO CORN.

This corn is the old fashioned kind, and has always been very popular as a feeding corn, and for many years we have had a great demand for it, especially from stock feeders. So great has been the demand for this excellent feeding corn that we have given greater attention to it the past few years than in former years, and without fear of contradiction, we can say we have the very highest and best strain of this corn that can be found anywhere. The strain we grow is of the large eared kind, deep grain and small cob, thus insuring early maturity. The ears run from 9 to 12 inches in length and measure from 7 to 8 inches in circumference. It is a combination in color of red, white and yellow stripes. It is full of protein and very rich and stock like it and eat it in preference to other corn. To all those in want of one of the best corns for stock feeding, we want to say we are in a position to supply you with the very best of seed.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant an acre), \$1.00. By freight or express: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., \$1.75 per bu.; 6 bu. to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bu. Bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices.

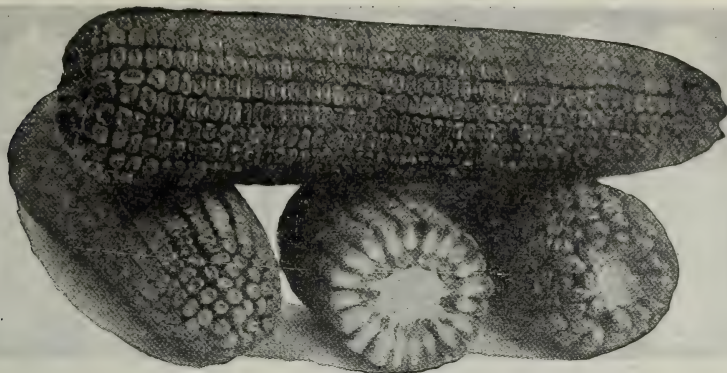
BOONE COUNTY WHITE, sometimes listed under the name of Boone County Special, is a highly bred variety of white corn of extra large size, containing a high percentage of oil. It is late maturing, but with good long seasons and favorable conditions, it is a splendid yielder. In many places it is a great favorite with some. The ears are from 8 to 11 inches long, 7½ to 8½ inches in circumference, containing 18 to 24 rows, weighing from 12 to 18 ounces. The cob is medium large and pure white in color. The ears are quite uniform in size, shape and appearance. The kernels are pearl white, quite rough, very deep, with fine large germ. This variety grows a large stalk from 10 to 12 feet high with an abundance of foliage, and like other white varieties, is the best for old, thin or poor soil. They gather more plant food from the air and less from the soil than does yellow corn. With favorable seasons in localities where it has plenty of time to mature, it is particularly valuable; say the southern half of Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. Matures fully in about 120 days. Our seed stock of this variety was grown from pure, inherited stock and can be relied upon to give the best possible results that can be obtained from this variety.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchasers' expense: Peck, 60c; ½ bu., 90c; 1 to 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu., \$1.60 per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu.



Photograph: (LEGAL TENDER).

Gold Standard Leaming



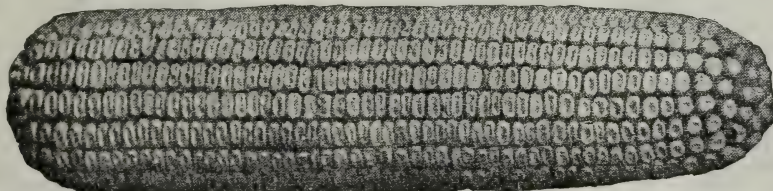
TYPICAL EARS LEAMING.

THE LEAMING CORN was first originated by Mr. J. S. Leaming, of Ohio, and has had the reputation for many years as being the purest bred yellow dent corn in existence.

The Leaming Corn is known everywhere and by all who have ever tried or become acquainted with it as the stock feeders' friend, and they think there is none better. It is very rich in protein and oil, and thus becomes ideal from a feeder's standpoint. In addition to this, it is grown very extensively in the East New England States, New York, Pennsylvania and Northern Ohio and Indiana; also in Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Dakotas, for its ensilage and fodder purposes of which it makes and gives a very bountiful supply of blades and leaves. It is all we claim for it.

DESCRIPTION: It grows to medium height, from 8 to 12 feet, dependent upon ground planted on, hill or bottom land. The ears are uniform and of good size, and usually set from three to four feet from the ground; medium small red cob, husks easily; ears solid and snug; surface quite smooth for dent corn. It is very productive and an ideal corn. We can fully recommend it to farmers and feeders as a most excellent variety of corn.

PRICE: Postpaid by mail, sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60. per bushel. Bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices.



REID'S YELLOW DENT.

REID'S YELLOW DENT: This is a most excellent variety of yellow dent corn, and is recommended by some as being an early maturing variety, but it is not, although a medium, requiring from 110 to 120 days to mature, dependent upon weather conditions, but can always be relied upon to ripen as far north as the central part of Iowa, and has often matured and produced good crops as far north as the southern Minnesota line, but to do this requires favorable weather conditions for corn to mature. It is a splendid variety of corn, and owing to its pure breeding and perfect ears, it has won a very large number of premiums and prizes at county institutes, state and national corn shows; this by reason of the ears conforming more closely to and within the limits of score cards in use, by which corn is usually judged and premiums awarded. But it is one of the leading standard varieties and stands among the best all around purpose yellow dent corns grown.

Our stock of this corn is extra choice, having been grown from absolutely pure seed, and we have made careful selection of the most choice ears, so we know our seed cannot fail to please the most particular or critical buyer of seed corn.

DESCRIPTION: It is a handsome yellow color, smooth deep kernel, medium sized ears, very uniform in looks and appearance, rows close together and very compact and of great solidity, and a most beautiful corn; is also a very rich nutritious corn for feeding purposes. You will make no mistake in planting liberally of it anywhere south of the central half of Iowa and that latitude.

PRICE: Postpaid, by mail sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bushel. Bags free, on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to above prices.

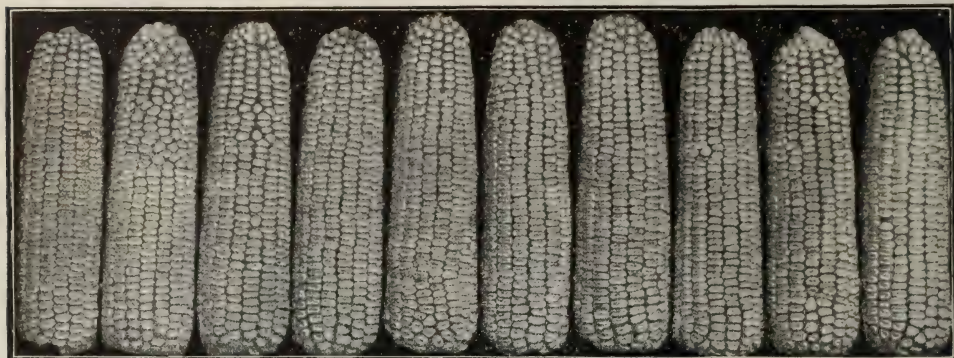
Sullivan County, N. Y., May 7th.—Seed corn, potatoes and nursery stock received all right.—Jno Schaefer.
Day county, South Dakota, June 1st.—I write to say the seed corn to hand all O. K.—M. A. Bates.
Windsor County, Vermont, May 31st.—I received the seeds ordered from you all O. K., which was very satisfactory. Thank you for promptness in hurrying them along.—R. Link.

Rochester, N. Y., Dec. 10th, 1911.

Gentlemen—You will remember I sent to you for some of your Gold Standard Leaming Seed Corn last spring and may be interested to learn what my experience and results from it were, and it does me good to tell you. In the first place, the ground was put in the best of order and corn planted when conditions were good, and it grew to a grain; never had a finer stand and such a wonderful crop as I grew has never been witnessed in this part of York state. People heard of it, and many of them came miles to see it. To say I am well pleased does not tell the story by half. Send your new catalog as soon as ready for mailing. I will send to you for my spring's planting.

With best wishes, J. R. RODGERS.

Iowa Gold Mine



The Earliest to Mature; the Purest Yellow; the Deepest Grain; the Best Medium Early; Between the Standard Field Varieties and Extra Early Sorts.

THE IOWA GOLD MINE Corn is more widely known than any other variety grown and has made the whole state of Iowa famous as the mother of this wonderful Early variety of yellow corn. It is listed by all dealers and planted in every state in the Union and in Central Europe, South America, South Africa, Austria; everywhere that corn is planted or grown.

DESCRIPTION: It is a medium early, between the leading and best standard field varieties, such as we grow for 100 bushel crops in the central corn belt of the north and west, and the extra early sorts that mature in 80 to 90 days in the extreme northern corn growing boundaries, and also for late planting and replanting, where other sorts have failed or been destroyed from one cause or another. **GOLD MINE IS A FAVORITE** in its class with every farmer who ever planted it, ripening a few days later than Pride of North, or making itself in about 90 days. Ears are not large, but medium in size and very symmetrical; color a bright golden yellow, as yellow as gold itself; grain is deep, cob small, and therefore dries out early and quickly. Seventy pounds in the ear will shell out 62 to 63 pounds of shelled corn, leaving but 7 to 8 pounds for cob. It is very free from barren stalks; every stalk bears from one to two good ears, running from 8 to 10 inches long, thus is a very heavy yielder for a medium between extra early and late varieties. The above are honest, fair descriptions, and I am sure this corn will not disappoint your best expectations.

PRICE FOR IOWA GOLD MINE: One ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant one acre), \$1.00, postpaid or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.75; 5 bu. or more, \$1.60. Bags free, f. o. b. here.

SAINT CHARLES WHITE. This excellent variety of white corn was originated in St. Charles County, Missouri, and is very popular with a large number of our customers in Missouri, and makes well in southern Iowa. In fact, our Missouri customers with whom this is such a favorite claim to get very much better results from our Iowa grown seed than from their Missouri grown seed, and that it matures there from ten to fifteen days earlier than home grown sorts of the same variety.

DESCRIPTION: The St. Charles White is a very handsome pure variety of white corn set on a red cob, and this corn appears to make a finer and better grade for milling purposes and for corn meal than almost any other sort. The ears are usually 8 to 10 inches long, 16 to 18 rows of deep, broad kernels, the upper corners of the kernels being rounding. The stalk grows from 8 to 10 and 12 feet high, dependent upon the land upon which it is planted, the lowlands and bottom producing the taller stalks; the stalk growing broad succulent blades, thus making it a very desirable corn for general crop purposes; for grain, fodder or for ensilage purposes. Our customers in the South, North, East and West are greatly in favor with this excellent variety of corn. In the South for the grain crop it produces and in the East, West and North for the fodder and ensilage it produces. Price same as Calico Corn.

PRICE: Postage by mail, sample ear, 35c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00; freight or express at purchaser's expense: Pk., 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu., 1.50; 5 bu., \$1.75; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

FUNK'S YELLOW DENT. Our stock of this variety was grown from seed purchased direct from the Funk farms, which variety has been advertised as a most excellent variety of yellow corn. They claim the average yield of this corn for the past four or five years has been upward of 100 bushels per acre. They also claim it to be an improvement over Reid's Yellow Dent, and has the same general characteristics. The ears are from 8 to 11 inches long, cylindrical in shape from butt to top, with 16 to 20 rows on small red cob. The kernels are medium rough. The originators claim this variety to be a vigorous grower; makes medium heavy foliage and a good combination corn for grain and ensilage purposes.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00. By freight or express: Peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu. to 5 bu., \$1.75 per bu.; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.60 per bu. Bags free on board cars here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bu. to above prices.

GOOD SEEDS.

By good seed we mean that which has been handled so that all of its germinating power has been preserved, aided by a constitutional vigor implanted in the grain by a judicious selection, cultivation and environment that produces a pure or improved variety. This may be done by the common farmer, but is generally best done by the professional seed grower. He generally knows better how to do this, and has the proper facilities for doing the work. This is (or soon will be) a business itself.

What is here said in this book as to seed corn will apply to all other farm seeds and farm crops.

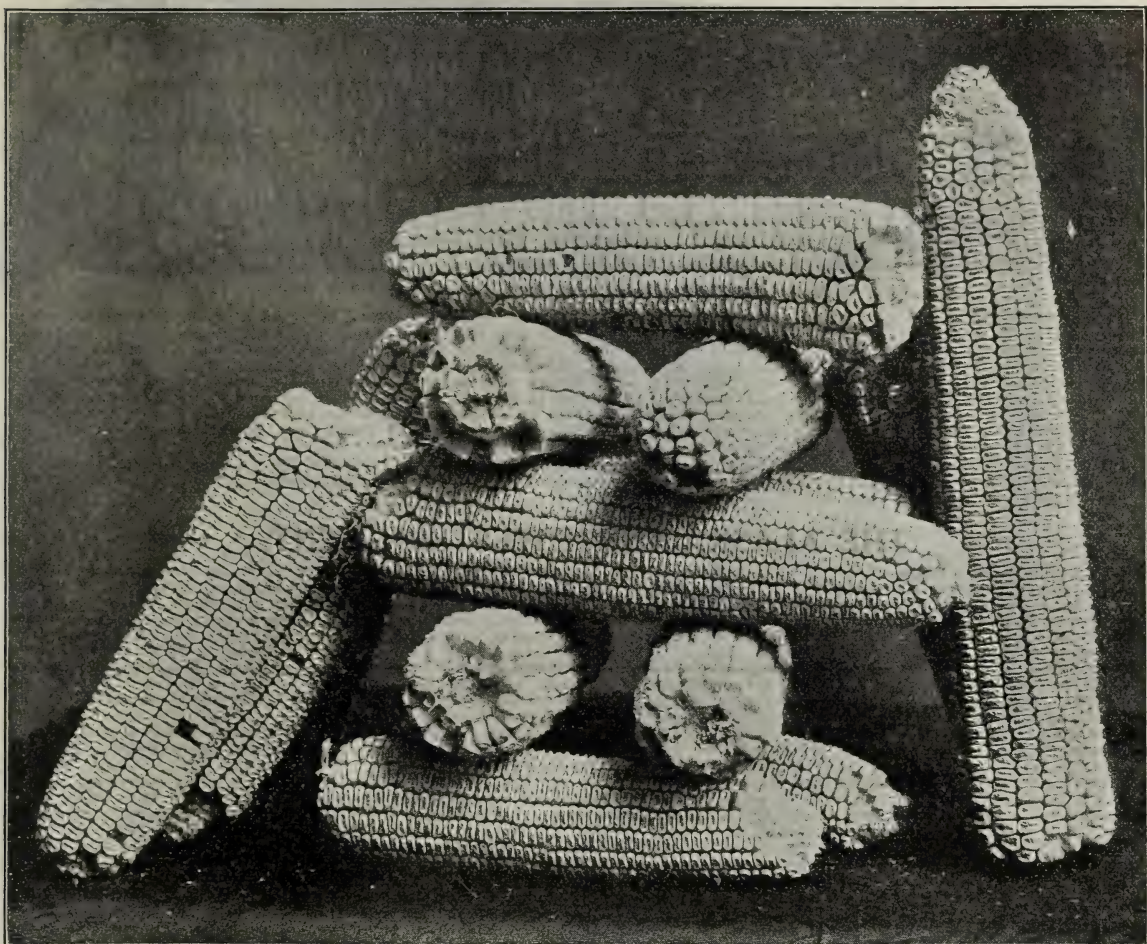
Tarrant County, Texas: Seed corn arrived today in good condition. Found it very fine. Am well pleased.
TAYLOR BLEVINS.

Monroe County, Ga.: I certainly was well pleased with results from **DIAMOND JOE'S BIG WHITE** got from you. Send me sample Speltz.
CLARENCE WALDRUP.

Marengo County, Ala.: I found your "**QUEEN OF NISHNA**" the best and most desirable corn for early feeding that I have ever seen. I begun feeding this corn last season on third day of June.
S. W. COMPTON.

Midland County, Texas: All of both farm and garden seeds I got from you have proven good and given splendid results.
T. H. ALSTON.

Extra Early Varieties FOR NORTHERN OR LATE PLANTING.



RATEKIN'S GOLD STANDARD—90 DAY CORN.
A Great Corn for Short Seasons. Beats Early drouth and Frost.

It is the early maturing Yellow Dent Corn you have been looking for. The stalks grow from 7 to 10 feet high, dependent on the land it is planted on; sets ears about 3 to 3½ feet from the ground; ears run from 8 to 10 inches long, with 16 to 20 rows, very deep grains, set on a small red cob, and shells out 60 to 64 pounds per 70 pounds of ears. It is a pure bred corn; every stalk producing at least one good ear and many of them two, and yields from 40 to 75 bushels per acre on good land under normal conditions, and will be ready to husk and crib for feeding and market fully three weeks ahead of ordinary varieties. We can conscientiously recommend this corn as the acme of perfection in early maturing and as a wonderful yielder, and cannot too strongly urge every farmer to plant liberally of it, for an early, quick maturing corn where late or replanting is necessitated from any cause.

We have received reports from fully thirty per cent of those who planted of it last season and without exception and from everywhere comes the most glowing accounts of the performance of this variety, both in early maturity and tremendous yields. We can fully recommend it to corn growers everywhere, and especially where the seasons are short, or where wanted for early feed or for late planting. It will make a good crop if planted anywhere south of central Iowa any time before June 25th to 30th. From any point, including productiveness, yield and early maturity, depth of grain, solidity of ear and smallness of cob, our new **GOLD STANDARD** stands ahead of them all. Don't wait, but send your order in now. It will cost you no more, if as much, as to send later; then by getting your seed early you have it at hand when you are ready to plant.

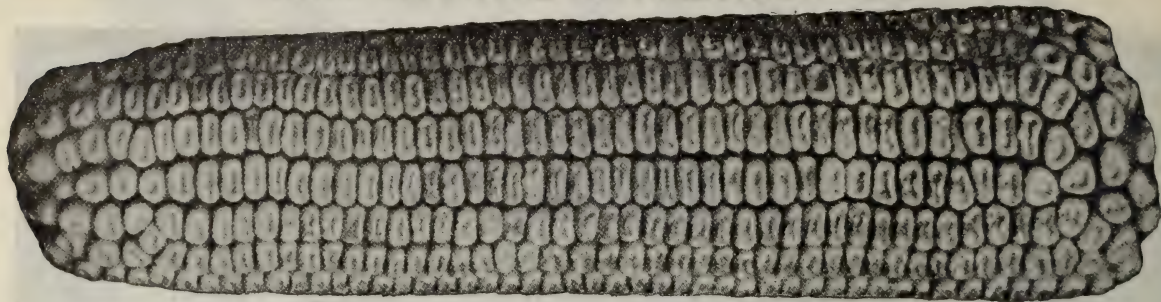
PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 1 ear, 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs. (enough to plant an acre of ground), \$1.25; postage or sent by express, prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, \$1.00; half bushel, \$1.75; bushel, \$3.00; 5 bushels and over, \$2.50; bags included, f. o. b. here. If wanted in the ear, crated, add 75c per bushel to foregoing prices.

Gentlemen—Replying to your inquiry of recent date, would say the Gold Standard 90-day Corn I ordered from you was planted May 25th and was safely out the way of frost by August 25. As to yield it made from 10 to 20 bushels better yield per acre than any our best native sorts under same conditions. Very truly yours,
J. C. FRICK.

Otter Tail County, Minn.

Extra Early Varieties

QUEEN OF NISHNA—FOR NORTHERN OR LATE PLANTING.



The Earliest, Hardest, Most Productive Ninety-Day Corn Grown.

DESCRIPTION: The ears ordinarily run from 7 to 10 inches long, with 16 to 20 rows of deep, compact grains solidly set on a small red cob. The stalks grow from 7 to 10 feet high, dependent upon the ground where planted, and under ordinary conditions makes a yield of from 30 to 60 bushels per acre. Each year we sell thousands of bushels of this variety all over the Dakotas, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and throughout New York and the New England States. In fact, we sell this corn everywhere where corn is grown. In some states it is planted for general crop; in others for early feed, and still in others it is used for late planting or replanting where other sorts have failed from one cause and another. We feel that we cannot recommend this corn too highly for all the purposes we have named, and feel sure that no farmer who plants corn will make any mistake in ordering and planting at least a part of his crop to this most excellent variety of early corn.

PRICE: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 50c; 7 lbs., \$1.00; postpaid or prepaid by express to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bushel, \$1.10; 1 bushel, \$2.00; 5 bushels and over, \$1.90. Bags free f. o. b. here.

THE ALASKA-NORTHWESTERN DENT.

This corn is in a class of its own: is a Yellow Dent. It was introduced by us four years ago throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Northern Michigan; also in the New England States, where the season for corn is short; everywhere our customers have been greatly pleased and loud in its praise. Like all other varieties of Indian corn it gives best results on good strong ground. Many of our customers claim to have grown as high as **SEVENTY-FIVE BUSHELS PER ACRE** from it. Usually, however, it yields from 50 to 55 bushels on ordinary corn ground and matures beyond danger of frost within eighty days. Under ordinary conditions it grows to the height of six to eight feet; average distance of ears from ground two feet and a half. The ears run from 7 to 10 inches long, very deep grain set on a small red cob, 14 to 18 rows on cob, and so sound you can plant very early and depend on 99 to 100 per cent germinating good and strong. One bushel will plant seven acres of ground. Our supply of this seed is limited. You will do well to order early.

PRICE: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs., \$1.25, postpaid or express charges prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, \$1.00; half bushel, \$1.75; 1 bushel, \$3.25; 5 bushels and over, \$3.00 per bushel. Bags free f. o. b. here.

RATEKIN'S DAKOTA BLOODY BUTCHER. This is another excellent variety of extra early maturing corn, and is a great favorite and extensively grown in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Northern Wisconsin and Michigan, as well as other states of high altitude and where the seasons are short and frost may be expected early. It is next to our Queen of Nishna as a large yielder among the early sorts, always making itself safely in from 80 to 90 days, even in the far Northern States; besides this it is a variety of great tenacity to resist and withstand unfavorable conditions, such as extreme wet or dry, and will do better on old, poor or thin soil than almost any other sort.

DESCRIPTION: The ears ordinarily run from 8 to 12 inches long, with 12 to 16 rows of solid, compact grains of a reddish or flesh color, being almost round and of a very nutritious character for feeding corn; one bushel going almost as far as 1 1/4 bushels of ordinary varieties. It usually makes a yield of from 30 to 50 bushels per acre on ordinary land under normal conditions, and we can fully recommend it for planting everywhere that quick maturing varieties are required.

PRICE: Sample ear, 25c; 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid or prepaid by express to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bushel, \$1.10; 1 bushel, \$2.00; 5 bushels and over, \$1.90. Bags free f. o. b. here.

PRIDE OF THE NORTH. This variety of early corn was originated by Mr. A. L. Goddard of Kossuth County, Iowa (one of the extreme northern counties in Iowa), about twenty-five years ago, and at once sprang into great prominence as the earliest of all Yellow Dent corns, and is yet a great favorite in some of the extreme Northern States. It is a very pure and handsome Yellow Dent Corn. The ears running from 7 to 9 inches long, with small cob and kernels; ears usually containing from 12 to 16 rows; 70 lbs. ears will shell out 60 to 62 lbs.; will ripen and mature safely anywhere in about 90 days; can be planted as late as June 25th to 30th, and make itself by September 10th. Good soil is capable of growing four to six stalks to the hill, and many stalks have two ears and usually produces from 30 to 50 bushels good, sound corn per acre.

PRICE: One lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs. (will plant one acre), \$1.00, postpaid. By freight or express: Peck, 75c; half bushel, \$1.25; 1 bushel, \$2.00; 5 bushels or more, \$1.90 per bushel. Bags free, on board cars here.

BOYS, LOOK HERE—MONEY IN POP CORN.

WHITE RICE, widely cultivated and used more than any other sort. Short ears, with long, pointed kernels. Very productive.

QUEEN'S GOLDEN, the largest sort. Stalks grow 5 to 6 feet high, producing two to three large ears each. Pops perfectly white. Single kernels expand to one inch across.

Very often there is good money in "little things" which, because they are small, people are apt to overlook. Popcorn is one of these.

The yield of ear corn to the acre is equal to any of the larger varieties, as it can be planted much closer than larger varieties of corn.

Boys or girls can grow an acre or two of popcorn and dispose of the product to their neighbors or to the nearest merchant. Why not turn it over to the children? It will afford them pleasure and profit.

Plant at the rate of six to eight quarts to the acre. We have a choice lot of this popcorn carefully chosen for seed purposes.

PRICES: Pkt. 5 cts., lb. 20c., postpaid. By express or freight at purchaser's expense: Lb., 10 cts.; 20 lbs., \$1.50; 100 lbs., \$6.00.

(Prices Subject to Changes and Fluctuations of Market).

Extra Early Flint Seed Corn



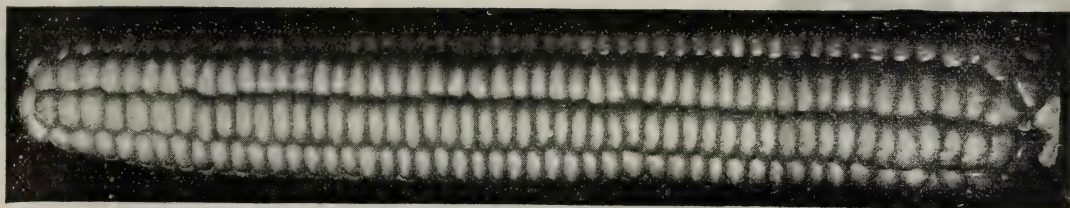
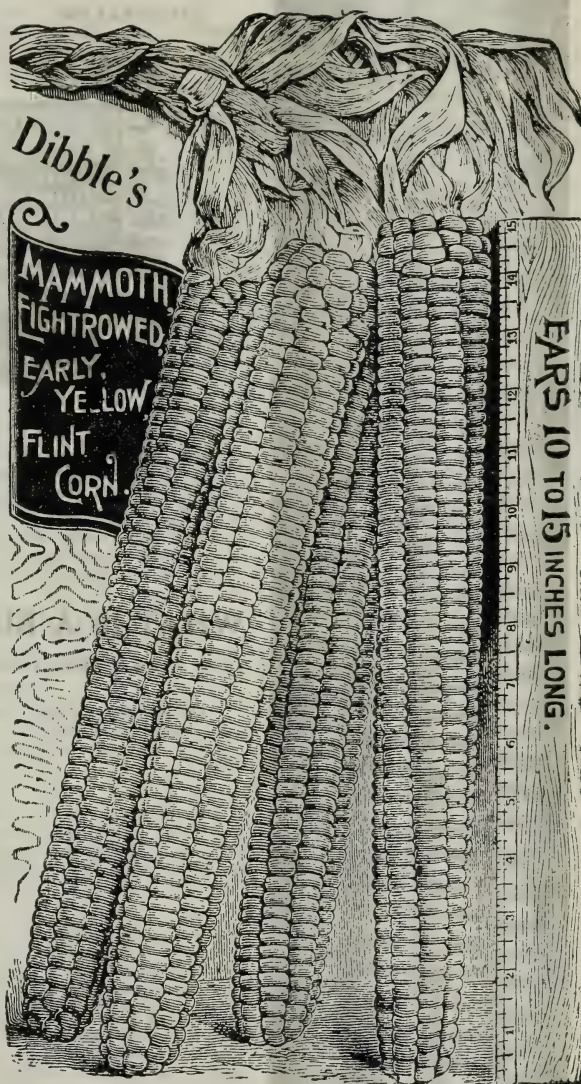
DIBBLE'S MAMMOTH YELLOW FLINT

(Our stock of Flint Corn is all shelled).

Every year from June 1st to September 1st we devote our time looking after our contract growers and investigating different sections of the country to find the best varieties adapted to the various climatic conditions, and while in northern New York some years ago we found a Flint Corn known all over New York and the New England States as "DIBBLE'S MAMMOTH YELLOW FLINT," and everywhere was extolled as the most wonderful of all Flint varieties. So favorably impressed were we from what farmers told us we went directly to the originator, Mr. Dibble, and procured a supply of seed from his private stock for our planting purposes. Since then we have been growing and selling it with most satisfactory results all over the Dakotas, Minnesota, Northern Wisconsin, Michigan, New York and the New England States. In short, we believe it to be the earliest, best and most productive flint corn there is grown. The stalks average 9 to 12 feet high, dependent upon ground, each stalk bearing from one to three ears. It leaves very profusely, nearly to the ground, and both the leaves and stalks are very nutritious and stock eat every vestige of the stalks as well as the leaves or blades. The ears average from 10 to 15 inches in length. It is very early to mature, and if planted late or when the ground is warm it will ripen and be ready for the knife within sixty to seventy-five days from planting. The seed we furnish our customers is from hand picked ears, running ten inches and over in length, thoroughly dry, well cured and can be depended upon to grow almost to a grain.

Owing to the superior advantages of this corn over other sorts of its class we want to urge all who grow corn in the far north, where the seasons are short and where frost may be expected the last of August to September 1st, to order early.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.25; postage or express prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express, not prepaid, peck, 75c; bushel, \$2.75; 2 bushels or more at \$2.65; 10 bushels, \$2.60. Bags free. $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel, \$1.25.



SANFORD'S WHITE FLINT. Handsomest of all Flints.

An eight-rowed white variety, with ears from 10 to 15 inches long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and well filled out to the extreme end of the cob. The cob is small and the kernel large and broad; ripens in '75 to '85 days. This corn is well adapted to the northwest and is said to produce 200 bushels of ears to the acre in Massachusetts and other New England States. Has given excellent results in Minnesota and the Dakotas, and other northern states. Excellent for ensilage. Stalks are very leafy, splendid for feeding green.

(Prices Subject to Fluctuation of Markets.)

Field Corn—Early Flint Varieties

LONGFELLOW. (8-row Yellow Flint.) A very early 8-rowed corn of the Canada type; ears cylindrical, about 11 inches long; color, rich glossy. The weight of seed corn is fully 60 lbs. Average height of stalk 7½ feet, average distance base of ear from ground, 3 feet. Large pkt., 10c; lb., 20c, postpaid. By express or freight, ¼ bushel, 65c; bushel, \$2.25. Bags free.



RATEKIN'S IMPROVED EARLY YELLOW FLINT.

An eight-rowed yellow flint variety, with ears from 10 to 15 inches long, 1½ to 2½ inches in diameter, and well filled out to the extreme end of the cob. The cob is small and the kernel large and broad; ripens in 75 to 85 days. This corn is well adapted to the Northwest, and is said to produce 194 bushels of ears to the acre in Vermont and other New England states. Has given excellent results in Minnesota and other Northern States. Excellent for ensilage, and is often used here for replanting. Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight or express, not prepaid, pk., 65c; bu., \$2.25; 2 bu. or more, \$4.25; 10 bu., \$20.00.

WHAT IS A BUSHEL OF SEED CORN WORTH?

**THE INHERITED QUALITY OF CORN TO YIELD HEAVILY OR POORLY
ALL COMES OF SEED PLANTED.**

People frequently write us that they would like to buy seed corn from us, but cannot because the prices are "too high."

The average price of our seed corn is less than \$2.25 a bushel, including bag.

IS IT WORTH IT?

A bushel of seed corn will plant from six to eight acres. To use our seed will cost, say, thirty cents an acre more than if common crib or home grown corn is planted. It is therefore evident that if our seed produces one bushel more to the acre, mind **ONLY ONE BUSHEL MORE**, than the home seed, that the entire cost of the seed and freight is paid for by this extra yield.

AGAIN, IS IT WORTH IT?

The corn we sell is grown from seed which has been brought to such a degree of perfection as to render it of almost priceless value. It represents the labor of many years and the expenditure of a very large sum of money. It has behind it the history of big crops. We know that when we plant it that barring flood or drouth it will yield heavily. At the proper time we go through our fields and detassel. When the corn comes to our warehouse it is hand-picked down to such a point as to give us on the average about ten bushels to the acre of seed that goes to our customers; the balance is sold for feed. Is this care worth thirty cents an acre to anyone planting corn?

GERMINATION.

We thoroughly test every lot of corn before we send it out to our customers. At the present writing we have just completed testing thirty separate lots of seed corn. Two tests were made of each lot. Every lot, except one, germinated 98 to 100 per cent, and that one grew 94 per cent. Never in the history of our business have we had better corn than is now in our warehouse. But wherever you may buy you should know for yourself that your seed corn grows before you plant it. We sell our seed under the following

GUARANTEE:

That it be tested promptly on arrival, and if it does not germinate to the entire satisfaction of the purchaser it shall be returned within ten days from time received at our expense and the money paid for same will be immediately refunded without question.

WHEN TO ORDER.

It is of great advantage to both our customers and ourselves if orders are placed early. This applies not only to corn, but to all seeds. After April first several important varieties are usually sold out and cannot be replaced. The "spring rush" is then on; employes become wearied with the long strain of night and day work, orders and shipments are more likely to be delayed, and errors are more likely to occur. In our customers' interest, therefore, as well as our own, we urge early orders.

Five Grand Varieties of Fodder Corn



Cutting a Field of Ratekin's Giant Shenandoah Fodder Corn.

FOR YEARS WE HAVE BEEN PREACHING THE GREAT VALUE AND IMPORTANCE OF GROWING FODDER AND ENSILAGE CORN TO THE FARMERS. The dry seasons of the past two years have assisted us in bringing these facts home to them, and has fully aroused them to its great importance as never before. From all reports coming to us from everywhere there was many times over more corn cut for fodder and ensilage purposes last year than any half dozen years in the past. When dry weather come on in the early part of the season and other crops were burned out and withered under the blasting hot sun and winds the farmers planted corn for fodder and ensilage because it was too late to plant other crops. They later found they had hit the mark in so doing. Now every one of them will hereafter plant a liberal acreage for fodder and ensilage purposes, because they have found it one of the most profitable crops they can grow, not as a makeshift, but as a necessity.

We make a specialty in seed corn for fodder and ensilage purposes, and our customers will find our varieties of the very best and highest quality and seed they can depend upon to grow.

THE SILO. We are not selling Silos. We have none for sale. We have many good Silos manufactured. We do not know which one is best. But we do know that every farm and every farmer who has 10, 15 or 20 head of stock, or more, should have a good Silo. Silage is good for the cow, the horse, hog, sheep, colts and calves. The Silo is endorsed by every agricultural college and every leading agricultural publication, and by all who have used them. They are money savers and money makers, and keep your stock healthy, thrifty and fat.

The value of a Silo is unquestioned. By its use crops may be saved in dry seasons that could not otherwise be preserved. By its use the whole of the corn crop may be saved instead of only 60 per cent of it, as now, when the ears only are harvested. By its use the stock may be fed succulent feed at all times and thus enjoy June conditions the year around. By its use the crops are placed under shelter, where they are handled in bad weather with the utmost ease and comfort. By its use better and quicker results are assured in either the beef or dairy herd. By its use the farmer feels that he is up-to-date, because he does his work easier, quicker and with more profit. He has more time and more money. He is at peace with himself and his neighbors. He is an optimist. He has made a good investment.

VARIETIES OF FODDER CORN. Corn fodder may be divided into five classes, viz: Large Southern Varieties, Medium Dent Varieties, Early Dent Varieties, Flint Varieties and Sweet Varieties. Each of these has its friends. All may be successfully grown for fodder in almost any latitude. The merits of each class are briefly stated under their respective headings. If further information is desired we shall be glad to supply it as far as it lies within our power, and will be pleased to make recommendations when desired. There is one point we want to impress on stockmen, dairy-men and others using corn fodder, and that is to place your orders early. By so doing you secure the benefit of the present low prices. You can test the seed and have corn. Prices Subject to Market Changes.

RATEKIN'S GIANT SHENANDOAH FODDER CORN.

Beyond a doubt this is among the best fodder corn, either to feed green right out the field, or to put up for the silo, or to cure and stack away, cropping as high as 35 tons to the acre. It is sweet, tender and juicy, and furnishes more nourishment than any other variety; has short joint and therefore an abundance of leaves and blades, and growing as tall as the tallest, thus making it of extraordinary productiveness. The only fault we have ever heard of this fodder corn is that it grows so large and so tall it makes it harder to handle. We measured one stalk from our crop last fall that was 13 feet and 4 inches in height and measured 1½ inches in diameter at the base, and contained 32 pairs of broad, long blades.

Drill 1 to 1½ bushels to the acre in rows about 3½ feet apart. Five or six kernels to each foot of row; plow and cultivate until 3 feet high, stirring the surface of the ground often, after which it will take care of itself.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; half bushel, 90c; 1 bushel, \$1.60; 2 bushels, \$3.50; 5 bushels and over, \$1.50 per bushel. Bags free f. o. b, here.

(Prices Subject to Changes and Fluctuation of Markets).

Fodder Corn

RED COB FODDER CORN. This is a standard Southern variety which has made a wide reputation all over the country, and is noted for its splendid qualities for both fodder and ensilage purposes. It grows very tall, ranging from 12 to 16 feet, and is a very leafy, broad blade.

PRICE: By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, 60c; half bushel, 90c; 1 bushel to 5 bushels, \$1.60; 10 bushels and over, \$1.50. Bags free on board cars here.

MEDIUM DENT FODDER CORN.

There are many who prefer for fodder smaller growing corn than the large and later varieties, claiming for it the following advantages: First, that it is more readily handled by the corn harvester, or even the grain binder; second, that it matures earlier, and gives well formed and often partially or fully ripened ears; third, that it is more easily cured; fourth, that the smaller stalks make finer and richer fodder; fifth, that the fodder is more easily handled in putting through the silage or fodder cutter, or if fed long is more easily handled in the manger.

We believe this variety will best please the advocates of the type of corn above referred to. It is tall growing, averaging 7 to 8 feet. It is very leafy. It has a small stalk. It will form, even in northern Minnesota and in North Dakota, good sized ears, thus adding to its feeding value.

Highly recommended by the best ensilage authorities for Northern states, as True Yellow Leaming produces large quantities of leaves. Bushel \$1.60; 5 bushels, \$7.25.

EARLY YELLOW DENT FODDER CORN. When sown thickly in drills, at the rate of from one to one and a half bushels to the acre, this seed will give a surprising amount of rich feed, relished by all stock. It can be cut and run through an ensilage cutter for the silo just before maturity, or it may be fed in the rack. Price, bushel, \$1.65; 2½ bushels (bag), at \$1.55; 10 bushels at \$1.50. Bags free.

FLINT VARIETIES FOR FODDER.

The farmers of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire and Massachusetts use for fodder corn Early Flint varieties almost exclusively. There is absolutely no waste to this class of corn, as the stalk is as greedily eaten as the leaves, and the feeding value is superior to everything but the Sweet Fodder or Early Dent varieties.

When it comes to Flint varieties for ensilage you want to quit looking after you have come to **DIBBLE'S MAMMOTH YELLOW FLINT.** There is nothing grown—nothing ever offered that is better—none that equals it. **FIRST,** it is as early as the earliest dwarf varieties—making itself anywhere in from 60 to 75 days safely beyond danger of frost, good corn weather. It grows stalks averaging from 9 to 12 feet high and leaves or blades from tassel to the ground, and both leaves and stalks are very nutritious, and stock devour every vestige of it, stalk and blades, as readily as they eat clover hay. It produces one, two and three ears, running from 10 to 15 inches long, and has been known to give a yield of 225 bushels of ears in Massachusetts, and almost as much in Minnesota. It's the corn for fodder! It's the corn for ensilage and the best in every respect for everything and everywhere, East, West, North or South, for early or late planting, where the seasons are short or in high altitudes, where the nights are cool; also for early feed. Don't overlook or pass this Flint Corn up. For ensilage or fodder plant rows 3½ feet apart, drilling 12 to 15 kernels to the foot in the row, and cultivate same as general field crop.

STOWELL'S EVERGREEN SWEET CORN.

Among all the splendid varieties for fodder and ensilage purposes we have here listed we regard Stowell's Evergreen Sweet Corn as one of the most valuable varieties grown, either for fodder, canning purposes or for seed purposes, either of which makes it a most desirable and profitable crop. In addition it is a most excellent variety to cut and throw out to milch cows, horses, hogs and the colts and calves during the summer and fall months, when grass is dried up and pastures are short. As a green fodder fed in this way one acre will furnish as much feed as eight acres of grass. The sweet, juicy stalks give it a flavor that makes stock like it as they like nothing else, and stock will devour the last vestige of the stalks and blades as clean as they would wipe up the best clover in the midst of winter. It is claimed by all dairy farmers that it will not only greatly increase the flow of milk, but will add a third to a half to the cream production. All we have said about its wonderful qualities as a green feed may be said with equal truth and force when it is cut up and put into shocks and fed during the winter months. Even in its dry stage stock of all kinds will eat every vestige of the stalks and blades. There is no waste whatever in this corn.

Plant with drill in rows 3½ feet apart, eight to ten kernels to the foot in the row. Cultivate thoroughly, plowing deep and close to the corn the first time, after which cultivate shallow or surface cultivation until three feet high. This variety of corn will make you from 15 to 30 tons to the acre.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c; 7 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid or express charges prepaid to any point in the United States. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: Peck, \$1.00; half bu., \$1.75; 1 bu., \$3.25; 5 bu. and over, \$3.00 per bu. Bags free f. o. b. here.

IN CONCLUSION: The one problem that confronts every farmer who keeps stock is how to get feed to supply his horses, cattle and hogs. The corn plant is the foundation food, and every portion of it should be used. A good silo on every farm where stock is raised, and where corn can be grown solves the problem. But where the farmer don't feel able or conditions do not justify he should at least grow a few acres of Fodder Corn and take care of it in the most practical way he can. We cannot too highly recommend **STOWELL'S EVERGREEN** where you have only a few horses or cows. Plant a few acres, if no more, and our word for it you will be pleased. Don't plant too early, nor when the ground is cold and wet. Sweet corn will sour in the ground when other field varieties will grow under wet, cold weather conditions.

FOR GRAIN AND FODDER CROP COMBINED.

We want to especially recommend our Gold Standard, Ratekin's Yellow Dent, Pride of Nishna, Iowa Silver Mine and Imperial White Corn. Either of these varieties will give you the best possible combination for a grain crop and fodder or ensilage crop. All of them mature early, and each have a very heavy stalk, broad leaves and lots of them.



The New Alberta Oats

THERE IS BIG MONEY IN OATS

IF YOU GROW THE RIGHT KIND THE NEW ALBERTA OATS.

In almost every line of agriculture today improvements have been made—better stock, better corn, better cotton, better alfalfa, better fruit and vegetables of all kinds, all of which has been done by breeding. But it seems that oats, one of the most important crops and easiest to grow, has been left out until the last two or three years.

Of all the crops that grow on the great American continent nothing is so easily grown and as reasonably sure as a good crop of oats, if the right kind of methods are pursued. You can't raise good oats from poor, inbred seed any more than you can raise good cattle or pigs or good corn, unless you select the best. It is an absolute impossibility.

For many years we have made the growing of seed oats a specialty, importing our seed stock for our own use, from which we grew much of our seed, but in the progress of time we find many progressive farmers who want the best the world can produce, and as good as any seedsmen or seed house in America uses for growing their own stock. In view of this pressing demand so often coming to us we have established a purchasing agent at Calgary, Alberta, in the great grain growing district of western Canada. Our agency at that point consists of an expert associated with us here in the seed business for many years, and who has made a special study of farm seeds, and especially of wheat, oats and barley and other small grain crops for many years, and has perhaps no superior in judgment as to quality and varieties of oats anywhere, and during the entire past season we have had him looking and watching the crops up there before and at harvest time, locating the best only that that wonderful country produces, and we are pleased to announce we have purchased 25,000 bushels of new Alberta oats for our seed trade the coming season. The variety of this seed is known there as

THE NEW ALBERTA

The cut bordering this page is a fine illustration of the kernels of the **NEW ALBERTA OATS**, except these were select kernels a little above the average size, this in order to bring them out fully in the photograph, in order to give a true conception of this wonderful oats.

These new oats were introduced into the Alberta country only four years ago by emigrants who took their seed from Iowa, and were known at that time as the Regenerated Swedish Select Oats, but owing to the great success and results made and given they soon thereafter took the name of **NEW ALBERTA**, often yielding 125 to 140 bushels per acre and weighing out from forty-five to as high as fifty-two pounds per measured bushel. Since their first introduction into Alberta they have been continually grown on new, clean virgin land, free from weeds, located in the **GREATEST OATS PRODUCING COUNTRY IN THE WORLD**, which produces these vigorous hardy oats—seed oats that is full of life and vigor that will easily make you a yield of **THREE TIMES AS MUCH** as common ordinary varieties.

THE NEW ALBERTA is of strong, stiff straw; stands up well on rich ground, as near rust-proof as any oats in existence; ripens medium early, two or three weeks ahead of late varieties, and is the all round best variety and quality of oats to be found anywhere.

PRICE: 8 lbs., postpaid, \$1.50. At purchaser's expense, by express or freight: Peck, 90c; ½ bu., \$1.50; 1 bu., \$2.50; 2 to 4 bu., \$2.25; 10 bu. and over, \$2.00, f. o. b. Shenandoah.



Field of **NEW ALBERTA**, or Regenerated Swedish Select Oats grown in Calgary County, Alberta, Canada, for the Ratekin Seed House of Shenandoah, Iowa, that made an average yield of 129 bushels per acre.



RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION.

RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS.

THE EARLIEST TO MATURE AND LARGEST IN YIELD

This is another of the known best varieties and one that should not be overlooked. We were the originators, and first introduced **RATEKIN'S NEW SENSATION OATS** five years ago, and have sold and sent out thousands of bushels each year for the past four years, and everywhere they have proven one of the earliest, hardest, most productive and best in quality of all American grown varieties of oats.

DESCRIPTION: Noted for their vigorous growth, strong, stiff straw and rust resisting qualities. The heads are sprangled, grains large, fat and plump, running from 36 to 40 pounds to the measured bushel, and yielding from 60 to 100 bushels per acre.

OUR PRICES make it possible for every farmer to sow 10 to 40 acres of these oats. In addition to your own requirements you can readily sell all your surplus to your neighbors for seed at a greatly advanced price above the market prices. Don't fail to sow liberally of these oats. They will not disappoint your hopes and best expectations.

PRICE: 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 1 bushel of 32 lbs., \$1.00; 2 bushels, \$1.90; 10 bushels and over, 90c; 50 bushels and over, 85c per bushel. Bags free f. o. b. Shenandoah.

Sauk County, Wis., Dec. 1st.
The New Sensation Oats I got from you last year made me a yield of 92 bushels per acre; the finest oats I ever saw. Send me your 1910 catalogue; will want a lot of seeds this year.
ADOLPH F. SCHMIDT.

Black Hawk County, Iowa, Dec. 26th, 1910.
Please send me your new catalogue as soon as ready for mailing. The New Sensation Oats I got from you last spring were really the sensation of this country. They grew five feet high and tops were as level as a pond of water. They ripened July 8th and threshed out 96 bushels per acre. How is that? Of course I'm pleased. Send me your 1911 catalogue as soon as ready for mailing.
SAMUEL F. MILLER.

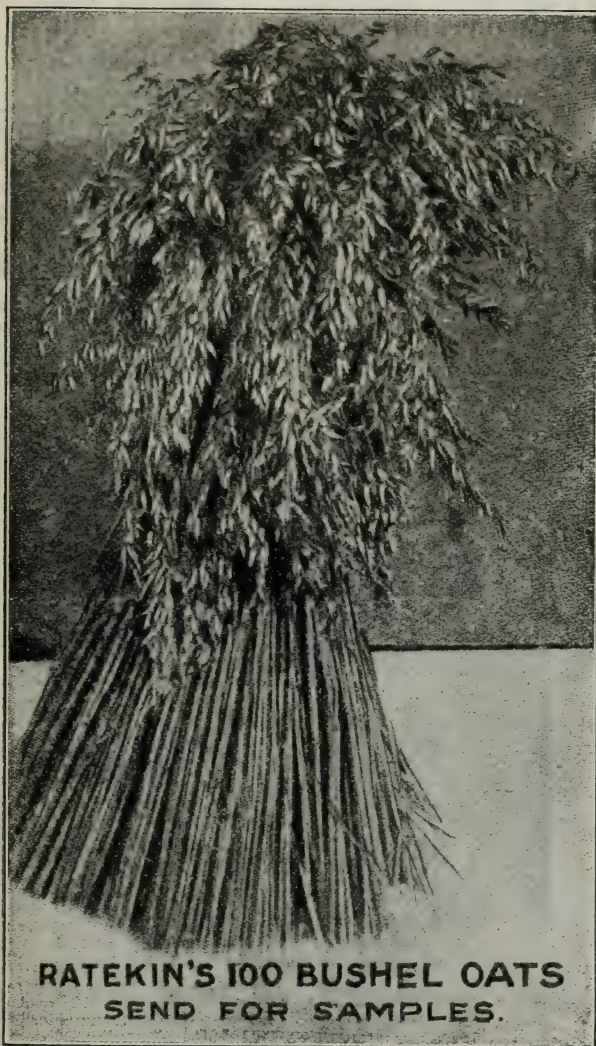
Tazwell County, Ill., Nov. 1st, 1911.
Ratekin's Seed House:
I want to tell you the New Sensation Oats turned out dandy. My yield was 95½ bushels per acre last year and 59 bushels per acre this year. They ripened early, stood up well and weighed out 28 pounds per measured bushel. Yours truly,
G. M. ROGERS.

Bucks County, Penn., Oct. 10, 1911.
Gentlemen: I have just threshed my New Sensation Oats from seed I got from you last spring, and want to tell you they beat anything ever grown in this part of the country. They grew strong, robust straw, medium height, ripened early and made 78 bushels of the finest oats I ever saw; they are sure a success here.
JOHN W. WELLS.

RATEKIN'S EARLY CHAMPION. Time tried, thoroughly tested and always a sure cropper. They are well known, well established and can always be relied upon for a good yield and a sure crop. They are the best for spring nurse crop to grass and clover. They grow a short, stiff straw, stand up well and ripen very early. We would rather risk growing grass and clover with Early Champion and Khersan Oats than any other varieties known or grown.

PRICE: 1 to 10 bushels, 75c per bushel; 10 bushels and over, 70c per bushel. Bags free f. o. b. Shenandoah.

RATEKIN'S BIG BANNER 100 BUSHEL OATS.



**RATEKIN'S 100 BUSHEL OATS
SEND FOR SAMPLES.**

We believe among all that is good "RATEKIN'S BIG BANNER, 100-BUSHEL, WHITE OATS" to be the best American grown oats and to stand pre-eminently at the head of all the best varieties. They are the biggest, prettiest, plumpest oats in existence. Side by side with common sorts they have frequently made 100 bushels per acre where others made but 25 to 40 bushels. Hundreds of customers have written us that on account of their earliness, enormous yielding qualities, freedom from rust and their wonderful stiff straw, standing up perfectly under weather conditions that caused other varieties to lodge and go down, there was **NONE LIKE THEM.**

We were the originators and introducers of this great oat and knew what they were and what they would do before we catalogued them three years ago. We had over 30,000 bushels of this seed last year and sent out over 10,000 samples promiscuously, indiscriminately, with our catalogues, and it was not sixty days until it was all snapped up so quickly we hardly knew we had any, as every sample we sent out brought back an average of a ten bushel order.

These oats are a sprangle head, large grain, very thin hull, and are the best and most economical oats for feeding there is in existence, weighing out 40 to 50 pounds to the measured bushel. Every farmer should try them this year. Order at least ten to twenty bushels, enough to get a start and some to sell to your neighbors for seed. Order early before our stock is exhausted.

PRICE: One lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid. By freight or express at purchaser's expense, 1 bu. of 32 lbs., \$1.25; 2 bu., \$2.50; 10 bu. and over, \$1.00 per bu. Bags free f. o. b. cars Shenandoah.

Boone County, Ky., Oct. 9th, 1910.

The Big Banner Oats ordered from you simply done fine; made an average of 125 bushels per acre. Please send me sample of your New Malakoff Winter Wheat and your winter wheat catalogue. Very truly yours, W. A. OSBORN.

My Banner Oats stood five feet high; made 80 bushels per acre; were the admiration of the surrounding country. The heads measured an average of 10 to 12 inches.

E. J. BROWNING,
Franklin County, Vt.

The Big Banner Oats bought of you made good. We have just threshed from 16 acres 1,310 bushels, machine measure; weight 42 pounds to measured bushel.

SAMUEL GLASGOW, Livingston County, N. Y.

From the twenty-six acres of Ratekin's Big Banner Oats (50 bushels of seed), we threshed 2,190 bushels, and I believe every bushel will weigh out 40 to 46 pounds per measured bushel. I never saw anything like them in this country.

JOHN E. DIFFENBAUGH, Monroe Co., N. Y.

A. M. GROVER, Bucks County, Penn.

TEXAS RED RUST-PROOF OATS.

This variety of oats was originated in Grayson County, Texas, and when we were visiting in that state in the early summer of 1898 our attention was brought to the finest field of oats our eyes ever before beheld. At the same time other oats crops on every side and everywhere in that part of the country were completely destroyed by rust and blight and were crinkled down and unfit for anything—not worth cutting. We bought the entire product of the field, about 1,800 bushels, and shipped them to Iowa for seed. It was an experiment with us, but we had seen them grow, and knew that with the great success they attained there under the hot, burning sun of that climate they would do here in the north, and we were not disappointed in results, and since then we have grown them by hundreds of acres and sold seed of them by the thousands of bushels. Since then these oats have made such a wonderful record and became so well known they have been sold and catalogued by most all the seed houses of the country. But it is probably not untrue to say that more than 75 per cent of all the oats sold under the name of Texas Red Rust-Proof Oats are more or less mixed with other varieties. However, we have always been extremely careful in the threshing and handling of our seed crops, and you may depend upon absolutely pure stock when you order your seed from us. As their name implies they are absolutely rust-proof, and are the surest cropper grown. They can be sown very early without the same danger of freeze or frost other varieties are subject to, and will ripen and be ready for harvest two weeks earlier than many of the so-called early varieties, and can always be relied upon to give you a yield of from 75 to 100 bushels per acre on ordinary good ground. They are a very strong, stiff straw, usually growing from 3 to 3½ feet high, and will stand up and not lodge where other sorts go down.

PRICE: 1 to 10 bu., \$1.00 per bu.; 10 bu. or over, 90c per bu. Bags free, f. o. b. here.



RATEKIN'S NEW KHERSON OATS.

IMPORTED FROM RUSSIA

Without a Blemish—Without a Flaw—Double the Yield of Common Oats.

This new variety of oats was discovered by Prof. F. W. Taylor, the superintendent of the Agricultural Department of the great World's Fair of St. Louis, when he was traveling in the province of Kherson, Russia, in 1900. They were first imported into this country and grown at the Nebraska Agricultural Experimental Station, where they proved such a great success they sent out small lots to farmers all over the state, and tests everywhere proved that these oats exceeded the highest expectations as to earliness, amount of yield and adaptability to withstand heavy winds and not lodge. The Kherson oats are about three weeks earlier to ripen than ordinary varieties of oats. The plant is a vigorous but somewhat dwarf growth. No sort ever tested has so thoroughly and completely shown its capability to withstand drouth or wet weather as the Kherson. It's ready to cut, thresh and feed before ordinary sorts are ripe. It gives big yields; 60 to 70 bushels, the last 30 would be your profits.

COST: The price we are offering these oats at is ridiculously low, and every farmer who reads this catalogue should try at least a part of his crop to these oats the coming season.

PRICE: 1 to 5 bushels, 90c per bushel; 10 to 20 bushels and upward, 80c per bushel. Bags free on board cars here.

Livingston Co.,
Ills., 10-30-11.—The
New Kherson Oats
is all you recom-
mend them to be—
iron clad. My crop
made 76 bushels per
acre the past season
and ripened two
weeks ahead of
earliest varieties in
this vicinity.
Sam'l S. Semelroth.



IMPROVED SWEDISH SELECT OATS. Considered by many to be the most valuable oats raised in the Northwest today. It is known under other names, such as King Oscar, Wisconsin No. 4, etc. This was originally quite a late oats, made early by growing it in the high altitude in which it was developed. It possesses striking features; the grain is short, plump, white, and very heavy. At the Wisconsin Experiment Station it has stood at the head of the list for several years, having been distributed by that station as Wisconsin No. 4. Prof. Moore of Wisconsin says of the Swedish oats: "The most satisfactory of all." Prof. Careton of U. S. Department of Agriculture says: "Probably the best American Oats." Prof. Shepard of the South Dakota Station says: "They are the best drouth resister of all our new plants."

PRICE: ¼ bushel, 35c; bushel, \$1.00; 2½ bushels at 90c; 10 bushels at 80c; 50 bushels at 75c. Bags free.

IMPROVED WHITE RUSSIAN OATS. The original stock of White Russian Oats was a capital oat, and sprang immediately into great favor. It is quite distinct from most other varieties, being a side or horse mane oat. We now offer White Russian Oats grown in North Dakota in its old time purity. White Russian is as nearly rust-proof as any oats can well be. It is a good yielder and quite hardy. On account of its ability to withstand unfavorable weather will be found very satisfactory. Pound, 20c by mail, postpaid; by express or freight, ¼ bushel, 40c; bushel, \$1.00; 10 bushels and over 90c bushel. Bags free.

LINCOLN OATS. This is an early White Oats with strong, stiff straw and medium sized, thin-shelled grain. There is hardly another variety of oats that was formerly so renowned as the Lincoln. We have kept them up in their original purity and vigor, the same as all the other standard varieties of oats possessing special merits, and are in a position to offer them true to name to our patrons.

Peck, 35c; bushel, 90c; 2½ bushels, \$2.10; 5 bushels \$4.00; 10 bushels and more at 75c per bushel. Sacks included.

IMPROVED SWEDISH SELECT.

SPELTZ OR EMMER.

WHAT IS SPELTZ? This question has been asked us many thousand times during the past five years. **SPELTZ IS A CEREAL TO SOW.** It has **TEN THOUSAND POINTS IN ITS FAVOR AND NOT ONE BAD ONE.** Speltz is good for everything that any other and all cereal crops are. It's good for pasture; Speltz fattens in the green state. It makes the best of hay cut when in the milk. It grows a 100 leafy stalk from one seed. It's the most profitable hay and grain food combined on earth. It will grow anywhere on earth that any other grain crop will. It's the greatest drouth resister in the world, and yet is never affected by rains, like other grain. It neither rusts, blights or lodges. It matures earlier than oats or spring wheat. It yields 10 to 20 bushels more per acre than oats, yielding from 50 to 80 bushels per acre; it's equal to corn, barley, oats, rye as a food for stock. It's the perfection of food for cattle, hogs and horses. Hogs squeal for it; cattle bawl for it, and horses neigh for it. One farmer said: **"IF YOU SOW SPELTZ FIVE YEARS YOU CAN WEAR DIAMONDS,** and your wife **CAN WEAR SILK AND SATIN,** and when your friends come to see you, you can take them out in an automobile."

FACTS ABOUT SPELTZ.

IT IS THE GREATEST DROUTH RESISTER OF ALL GRAIN CROPS GROWN; IT THRIVES ON POOR LAND, ON STONY GROUND IN THE FOREST REGIONS; IN THE PRAIRIE DESERTS. IT MAKES A SURE CROP WITH ALMOST ANY CONDITION OF SOIL, SEASON OR CLIMATE; ENDURES A GREAT DEAL OF FROST. IT IS NOT READILY DAMAGED BY HARVEST RAINS; IS NOT SUSCEPTIBLE TO RUST OR SMUTS; YIELDS MORE THAN WHEAT, OATS OR BARLEY, AND IT IS MORE NUTRITIOUS THAN EITHER. STOCK LIKE IT. IF SOWN FOR HAY CROP IT IS BETTER THAN THE BEST TIMOTHY HAY. IT FATTENS ALL KINDS OF STOCK THAT EAT, AND IS THE EARLIEST OF ALL SMALL GRAIN TO RIPEN—TO HARVEST.

CULTURE OF SPELTZ.

The culture of Speltz is simplicity itself. It will grow and do well on any kind of ground where anything else will grow. Prepare your ground as you would for wheat or oats and sow at the rate of 2 bushels or 80 lbs. to the acre.

We have this year made our prices lower than ever before, because we want every customer and farmer who receives this catalog to try 10 or 20 bushels; the more you plant the better pleased you will be.

PRICE: 1 bu., \$1.25; 10 bu. \$1.10 per bu.; 20 bu., \$1.00 per bu. Bags free, on board cars here.

RATEKIN'S WHITE HULLESS BARLEY.

SOME OF ITS VALUABLE PROPERTIES: IT'S HULLESS; IT IS BEARDLESS; IT YIELDS GOOD CROPS ON POOR LAND AND ENORMOUS CROPS ON STRONG GROUND; WEIGHS 60 TO 64 POUNDS TO THE MEASURED BUSHEL; IT IS OF INESTIMABLE VALUE TO EVERYONE WHO FEEDS STOCK OF ANY KIND. IT RIPENS VERY EARLY; IT MAKES BETTER PORK THAN CORN. IT'S SURE A VERY PROFITABLE CROP FOR EVERY FARMER TO GROW.

Cumberland Co., Tenn., Oct. 1911.

From the five bushels Speltz I got from you, sown on two and a half acres of hill ground, I obtained a yield of 148 bushels. I find this new grain the most dependable small grain crop and greatest drouth resister of all small grain crops. It's the sure thing.—J. W. McSweeney.

We want 800 lbs. "DWARF ESSEX RAPE SEED." Name us prices. Prefer buying it from you because of the splendid luck we had from the 50 bushels "PRIDE OF NISHNA" we got from you this year.

P. JANSEN & SONS, Jansen, Nebr.

Head of Speltz or Emmer.

No Barley of which we have knowledge has proved as valuable to the stock raiser as the Improved White Hulless. It is not a malting variety, but for feeding purposes there is no barley raised which can compare with it in earliness, yield and quality.

The grain is exceedingly heavy, weighing from 60 to 63 pounds to the measured bushel. The yield varies according to soil and climatic conditions, but it can be depended upon to produce from 35 to 80 bushels an acre. Its nutritive value is very great. It is fed to work-horses at the rate of 2 quarts where 4 quarts of oats would be required. The best way is to mix it with oats and grind the two together for horse feed. It is also very valuable for feeding poultry, hogs and all kinds of stock. As fattening feed for hogs it has no equal. It makes sweeter meat and nicer lard by far than corn.

It is often grown for hay, coming very early and providing rich feed. It should be cut just before it becomes ripe and while the straw is green. In this condition it is relished by all kinds of stock. The straw is stiff and straight and seldom if ever does it lodge.

We would be glad to refer to at least a few letters from customers and users of our White Hulless Barley, but very much regret that space does not permit the publication of them.—J. W. R. For grain sow 1½ bushels to the acre; for hay, 2 bushels.

PRICE. Postpaid by mail, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c; 7 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; half bu., \$1.25; 1 bu., \$2.25; 2 bu., \$4.25; 5 bu. and over, \$2.00 per bushel. Bags included, f. o. b. cars here.



Ratekin's Success Beardless Barley



This is a new 6-rowed Barley, and, as the name indicates, without beards, which is the most valuable improvement ever made on barley. It is a vigorous grower, producing strong, short straw and heavy, well filled heads. Its earliness is one of the most important features, as it can be cut and put out of the way before the wheat and oat crop is harvested. On good land it has produced 80 to 90 bushels per acre in favorable seasons. In regard to soil, it is not particular, as a good crop of Beardless Barley can be raised on land too poor to produce a crop of wheat or oats. It is a first-class malting barley, and equally good for feeding stock, therefore always bringing the highest market price. It should not be mistaken for the Beardless Hulless Barley, which is described on the preceding page, and which is grown for feeding purposes only. Ever since this grand new barley was introduced, there has been such a demand for it that we were always short in supplying our trade, and we anticipate another great rush for it this year. Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.60; 2½ bu., \$3.75; 5 bu. and more, \$1.45 per bushel, sacks included.

MANSHURY BARLEY

This grand barley was introduced from Asia by the Ontario Agricultural College several years ago, and is, beyond doubt, one of the most valuable varieties ever introduced into this country, greatly out-yielding the justly renowned Manshury Barley. It is an early 6-rowed variety, maturing in 80 to 90 days from time of sowing, and is adapted to all kinds of soil and climate; is very strong strawed, stools well, and bears large and well filled heads of plump grain, which possesses malting qualities of the highest order. Another important factor is its nice and bright color, which will not turn dull and yellow when exposed to rainy weather, as most of the other varieties do, and on this the brewers, and will command the highest

account it will always be in good demand by market price. A good malting barley always sells for at least 10 to 15 cents more than such as is discolored and which can only be used for feeding purposes. By growing the Manshury, instead of some common variety, one can quite easily gain from \$5 to \$10 per acre. 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c, postpaid; peck, 45c; bu., \$1.50; 10 bu., \$14.50.

ODERBRUCKER OR WISCONSIN NO. 55 BARLEY

We presume that more barley is produced in the State of Wisconsin than in any other locality. The reason for this is quite evident. In that state are located the largest breweries in the United States, if not in the world. On account of barley being one of the staple crops, the State Experimental Station of Wisconsin has given particular attention to the breeding of barley to obtain big yields, protein content and other qualities which are essential for both brewing and feeding purposes. Oderbrucker or Wisconsin No. 55 is considered the best variety of barley sent out by the Wisconsin Station. Prof. Moore declares it to be superior to the Manshury, yielding 5 to 10 bushels more per acre. The original stock of this barley was obtained in Germany by the Ontario Agricultural College, from which place the Wisconsin Experiment Station procured a small supply. By them it was greatly improved and then disseminated. Oderbrucker is a stiff-strawed, heavy-yielding, six-rowed bearded variety. It is about the same as Manshury in time of maturity, manner of growth and general appearance, but has a plumper kernel and weighs more to the measured bushel. Prof. Moore says: "In stiffness of straw and rust resistance it is superior to any other variety on test."

It has protein content of 15%, or nearly double the amount of protein found in many other varieties. This makes it a very valuable feeding barley, which is an important consideration with the leading farmers and stockmen, who are now appreciating more and more the value of barley as a feed for all kinds of stock, horses as well as cattle. On account of its large percentage of protein, it is also one of the best malting barleys. Lb., postpaid, 20c. By freight or express: 1 peck, 50c; half bu., 90c; 1 bu., \$1.60; 6 to 10 bu. and over, \$1.50 per bushel. Bags included.

SPRING WHEAT, PEDIGREE STOCK.

PRICES. We are obliged to ask a considerable advance over the market price for our High Grade Seed Wheat, as there is very much larger cost attached to its production and preparation than anyone who has not had the experience could possibly appreciate. Space does not permit of going into detail, but, as a matter of fact, the prices named below for the larger quantities represent but a slight advance over the actual cash outlay to us. We believe that farmers who want to change their seed will find it very much to their advantage to secure enough, at least, to give them a start.

RATEKIN'S BIG RED FIFE SPRING WHEAT. This is the wheat used in the Orange Judd Farmer contest of 1906, and is stock selected by Prof. Shaw and the Orange Judd Farmer and American Agriculturist as being the purest and healthiest stock of Hard Wheat to be obtained anywhere at any price. It is the wheat that made Minneapolis flour famous all over the world, and is undoubtedly the finest stock of milling wheat in existence.

PRICE: 1 bushel, \$1.75; 10 bushels and over, \$1.60.

MINNESOTA No. 163 FIFE WHEAT. Of the many crosses obtained within the past twelve years, the one sent out by the station as Minnesota No. 163 takes a high rank. The heads are long, well filled with medium sized, plump kernels. Flour made from this variety shows a higher gluten test than most sorts. The straw is medium height, very strong and wiry. At the station farm this variety averaged two to five bushels an acre more than the Fife and Blue Stem varieties. The average yield of Minnesota No. 163 Wheat for the past 13 years has been 26.4 bushels an acre. This tells a story which should interest every intelligent grower of spring wheat. Our crop was grown in North Dakota on land which had not grown wheat for a number of years, and is very pure. **PRICE:** By freight or express, at purchaser's expense: 1 bu., \$1.75; 2 bu., \$3.40; 10 bu. \$1.60. Bags free.



Manshury Barley.

SPRING WHEAT—Continued.

VELVET CHAFF OR BLUE STEM WHEAT. The standard variety for growing in Iowa, and it is now the main crop in the northwestern states where the great milling kings use it for their highest grade flour.
PRICE: Lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 50c, postpaid. By freight: Peck, 60c; bu., \$1.65; 2 bu. or more, \$1.50; 10 bu. or more, \$14.00.

MACARONI OR DURUM WHEAT. Sent out by the United States Department of Agriculture under strong recommendation as to its great value for semi-arid lands where good crops of spring wheat could not ordinarily be produced, has more than justified every claim made for it. The acreage of this variety is increasing every year. It outyields any other variety of spring wheat, and it has been demonstrated that it makes bread superior to that made from the best Fife Wheat Flour, and has proved to be practically immune to the dreaded rust. In growing it resists extremes of weather which no other wheat will endure. It is now being received in the largest wheat markets in the world and sells readily at a price with the very best Fife Wheat.

In the field this wheat grows very strong and with surprising rapidity, so rapidly as to get well ahead of the weeds. It does not shell or bleach, and is also hail proof, owing to the tightness of the hull. The straw is very strong.

PRICE: 1 bu., \$1.75; 2 bu., \$3.30; 10 bu., \$15.50. Special prices in larger quantities.

WINTER WHEAT FOR THE NORTHWEST; BETTER STILL FURTHER SOUTH. SIXTY-FIVE BUSHELS OF WHEAT PER ACRE.

Rev. M. G. Hamm, of Holton, Kans., in Kansas Farmer, is a man who preaches by example as well as by precept. While he has been in the ministry a good many years he has been a farmer all his life. Last year he had the satisfaction of raising 65 bushels of wheat to the acre. The field where the great fight for the championship was pulled off had been farmed for 47 years. It was first plowed two years before the collapse of the Confederacy. Forty years of the 47 has seen this land in corn. Most land is "corned to death" in half that time.

MALAKOFF, KHARKOF and TURKISH RED stand first and at the head of all other varieties. All are extremely hardy, and will resist more unfavorable conditions than any varieties in existence. They are as hardy as winter rye and will do well anywhere rye will succeed. We also grow the pure, genuine Fultz, it being a soft beardless variety.

MAMMOTH WONDER WHITE RYE.

MAMMOTH WONDER WHITE RYE. We consider winter rye one of the most important of all farm crops. In the first place, it is a sure crop, failures being almost unknown. Every farmer should have at least a few acres of it. It is usually sown in the fall, and as it grows very vigorously, will furnish pasture till late in the fall and also early in the spring before other grasses have made a growth. So it is of great value to dairy farmers. If sown early in the spring it makes an early and abundant pasture, but makes no grain crop. Our Mammoth Wonder Rye is of extra quality. We are sure it will please you, no matter whether you want it for pasture or grain crop. As grown for the grain alone it will yield great returns and make money for you. As much as 60 bushels per acre have been produced.

Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.40; 2 bu. or more at \$1.35; 10 bu. or more at \$1.25.

MAMMOTH SPRING RYE. This is quite different from the winter rye, and is highly valued wherever known. It is not only more productive, but the grain is of finer quality and it can be successfully grown in any latitude. The straw is of special value, as it stands six to seven feet high, being better than that of winter rye and producing nearly four times as much straw as oats. Produces 30 to 40 bushels of grain to the acre. As it does not stool like winter rye, not less than two bushels to the acre should be sown. There is always a demand for first quality rye straw, and the price is nearly always remunerative. The double crop of straw and grain make it one of the most profitable of farm crops.

Packet, 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c, postpaid. By freight, peck, 60c; bu., \$1.75; 2 bu. or more at \$1.65; 10 bu. or more at \$1.60 per bushel.

COTTON FOR THE SOUTH.

WE ARE HEADQUARTERS FOR THE BEST AND FINEST VARIETIES OF COTTON SEED. Since cotton cannot be successfully grown in Iowa, or the northern states, we have never before listed it. But owing to our large and extended trade throughout the south, we have had a great inquiry for this seed and many times when visiting the trade and our customers in the south they have called our attention to this item and have told us that if we would advertise some of the best bred varieties of cotton seed as thoroughly as we have our improved varieties of seed corn and other farm seeds we could do a world of good in supplying planters throughout the south. For these and other reasons we are listing a few of the best improved varieties of seed this year that are grown anywhere in the south, and we ask a liberal share of your orders for seed the coming season.

PETER'S IMPROVED KING'S. The largest balled cotton; earliest to mature and said to be one of the most productive varieties there is grown. Our seed of this variety was grown and came from the best breeders of cotton seed in Texas.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.50; 5 bu., \$6.00; 10 bu., \$11.50.

LONG STAPLE. From constant inquiries and excellent results reported from this variety we have been encouraged to list it as among the very best. It is especially a great favorite along the Red River Valley in Texas and Oklahoma and down the Red River to its mouth.

DESCRIPTION: The bolls are very long, and usually have four or five locks. The lint runs about 1½ inches long and of excellent quality. Our seed is of the most select, but have only a limited supply, therefore recommend that you order early.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.75; 5 bu., \$8.00; 10 bu., \$15.00.

GIBSON BIG BOLL. This is recommended to us as one of the best varieties of big boll cotton grown, and very popular wherever grown. It is a five-lock, storm-proof variety.

PRICE: Peck, 40c; bu., \$1.25; 5 bu., \$6.00; 10 bu., \$11.50.

TEXAS TRIUMPH—BIG BOLL. This great cotton has superceded and taken the place of all the old standard sorts wherever introduced. Our stock is of the highest improved type and we claim and believe it to be as near perfection as a large early big boll cotton can possibly be, and none under same conditions that will make as large a yield as **TRIUMPH**. It surpasses every known variety in lint turnout. It produces a strong, thrifty, robust, deep rooted stalk, with long limb and short joints. The bolls are very large and begin to form near the ground close to the stalk. It's the earliest big boll cotton grown, and stays in well after opening. If planted with the early small boll cotton it blooms and fruits at the same time, but it takes a large boll a few days longer to open.

PRICE: Peck, 50c; bu., \$1.35; 5 bu., \$6.50; 10 bu., \$12.50.

BUCKWHEAT. JAPANESE BUCKWHEAT. Entirely distinct from all other varieties; it has the advantage of remaining for some time in bloom and produces seed earlier. On this account it can be grown farther north. It resists drouth and blight very well. The seed is rich dark brown in color and larger than Silver Hull. As much as forty bushels to the acre has been harvested of this variety, making it very profitable to raise. $\frac{1}{4}$ bu., 50c; bu., \$1.45; 2 bu. at \$1.35; 10 bu. at \$1.25. Bags free.

SILVER HULL BUCKWHEAT. This valuable variety originated abroad and is a decided improvement on the old black or gray sort. It is early, remains longer in bloom than other sorts. A fine variety for honey bees. The grain is of a beautiful light gray color, and has a thin husk. Millers prefer Silver Hull, there being less waste and it makes whiter, better and more nutritious flour than other varieties. Silver Hull is more productive and the grain meets with a more ready sale, bringing higher prices than the Japanese. Under favorable conditions it will yield 40 to 50 bushels an acre. $\frac{1}{4}$ bu., 50c; bu., \$1.40; 2 bu. at \$1.35; 10 bu. at \$1.25. Bags free.

BROOM CORN. IMPROVED EVERGREEN. For length, strength and straightness of brush this variety is unexcelled. It is of light green color without the slightest reddish tinge. It makes far the best brooms of any grown. Height 7 to 8 feet. **PRICE:** By mail, postpaid, lb., 30c. By freight: Peck, 60c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$4.10; 1 bu., \$1.75.

DWARF EVERGREEN. This is a popular variety on account of its being not so liable to blow down and lodge as the taller varieties. Heads are very bushy and make a fine yield.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, lb., 30c. By freight: Peck, 60c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$1.10; 1 bu., \$1.75. Ask for prices on quantity.

SEED FLAX. It will pay you to sow nice, pure, high-grade flax seed. Our seed is thoroughly re-cleaned, free from mustard or any other weed seed, and is as good as can be purchased anywhere. Price subject to change. Per lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 50c, postpaid. By freight or express, not prepaid, peck, 65c; bu., \$3.25; 2 bu. or more at \$3.10; 10 bu. or more at \$3.00 per bushel.



WHIP-POOR-WILL COW PEAS.

COW PEAS

NEW ERA. The earliest variety of Cow Peas in existence and therefore most decidedly the best for growing in the northern states. Throughout the south Cow Peas are considered one of their most profitable crops, as they yield immensely and are largely used as green summer feed and also for planting in corn and other crops and plowing under as a fertilizer. Particularly recommended for planting after grain harvest and plowing under in fall. If you will get the grain off the ground early and plow and plant to New Era Cow Peas you can put the ground in fine shape for next year's crop. You will not have to haul manure on land so treated. Sow in orchards and either use for feed or soiling. Every farmer can use them profitably, as the New Eras mature in 60 days and have done well as far north as Minnesota. Packet, 5c; lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 80c, postpaid. By freight, peck, \$1.25; bu., \$3.75.

WHIP-POOR-WILL. The most highly valued plant in the south for fodder and reclaiming old and worn out land, as it is a leguminous plant of special merit as a fertilizer. The vines when fed green make the best fodder and are very nourishing. The Whip-Poor-Will is the most popular sort, and yields a good crop of both fodder and peas. When ripened the ground peas make the best cattle fattener. Pkt., 5c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight, pk., \$1.10; bu., \$2.50; 2 bu. or more at \$2.25.

FIELD PEAS

For northern states there is no crop of greater value than Field Peas, and none is more neglected, which can only be attributed to a lack of knowledge as to their merits as a fodder, being very rich in the elements that improve the muscle, bone and nervous system. Sow as early as the ground can be worked, using two bushels of peas and two bushels of oats per acre. Cut when the oats are in the milk and cure for hay. Especially valuable to the farmer who has not enough meadow land.

SCOTCH BEAUTY PEAS. Pest Blue Field Peas. Will yield an immense crop of superior quality. Peck, \$1.00; bu., \$3.00; 2 bu. or more at \$2.85; 10 bu. or more at \$2.75 bushel.

WHITE CANADA PEAS. More used than any other. Peck, 60c; bu., \$2.25; 2 bu. or more at \$2.15; 10 bu. or more at \$2.10 per bushel.

SOJA BEANS

The berries ripen in about three or four months from the time of planting and produce a crop of 20 to 40 bushels to the acre, and are as easily grown as other beans. When roasted and ground it closely resembles coffee and tastes quite similar. Some mix half and half with coffee when using and claim it is superior. Its great value to the farmer lies in the fact that when ground it makes one of the most valuable crops for feeding stock and adds greatly to the milk production. This variety will ripen in all the northern states, where it has been grown, over four feet high, heavily podded with seed and yielded over 10 tons per acre. It is a valuable fodder variety either for feeding green or for the silo. Being a rich, nitrogenous feed, it is unsurpassed as a flesh former, and, like the clovers, is a soil improver. Plant in drills two or three feet apart and one foot between plants. Packet, 5c; lb., 30c; 3 lbs. 75c, postpaid. By freight, peck, \$1.00; bushel (50 lbs.), \$3.50.

IMPROVED PROLIFIC TREE BEANS

Also called California Wonder. Undoubtedly the most prolific bean grown, and it will yield a larger crop under ordinary circumstances than any variety we have ever seen. On our farm it yielded a crop of 41 bushels per acre. Beans pure white, small size, resembling the "Navy." Packet, 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, 12c; quart, 35c. By freight, peck, \$1.25; bushel, \$4.00.

IMPROVED NAVY OR BOSTON PEA BEANS

A wonderful improvement over the old-time Navy Bean and superior to Michigan pea bean. Makes a very desirable farm crop, especially in the far north. Packet, 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pint, 12c; quart, 35c, postpaid. By freight, peck, \$1.00; bushel, \$3.75; 2 bushels or more at \$3.50.

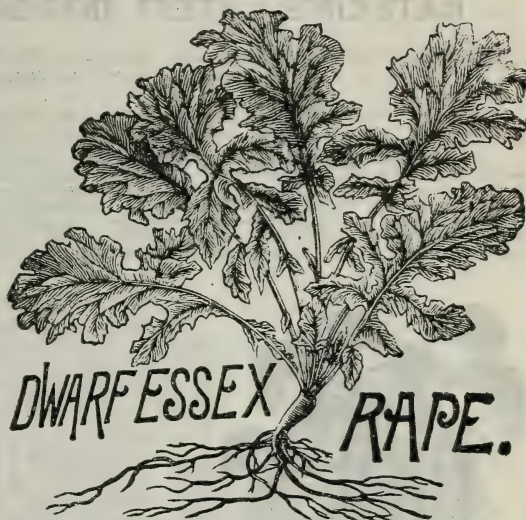
PRICES OF FIELD PEAS SUBJECT TO MARKET CHANGES. Prices are so fluctuating that during the season there may be a wide variation in price and we may be entirely out of line with current prices at time ordered, but we will give you closest prices and quotations at any time upon request.

DWARF ESSEX RAPE.

THE MOST PROFITABLE PASTURE PLANT IN EXISTENCE.

Come here, Mr. Farmer, until we tell you about Dwarf Essex Rape. One acre of Dwarf Essex Rape will pasture more hogs, cattle and sheep than six of clover or grass. As a healthy fattening pasture food it has no equal. It stands without a rival in point of cheapness and effectiveness. Hundreds of farmers have written us asking methods of rape culture. Why, it's the simplest crop grown in the world. You can sow it anywhere and everywhere, and at all times after danger of frost is past until September 1st, even later in the South. We have hundreds of customers who sow 50 to 500 pounds each year. Rape is adapted as a catch crop, and may be sown in the early spring to provide summer pasture for stock. Plow the ground same as for turnips and sow 5 pounds per acre broadcast, or can be sown in corn and plowed in last plowing. Then after you have cut small grain sow in stubble, running disc over the ground to give light covering. It can be sown in drills 30 inches apart and cultivated; then cut and throw out to your stock. Planted in this way use 2 pounds seed per acre. There is nothing so easily and profitably grown, and practically at no cost. Sow Rape; it will please and profit you. Our seed is pure Dwarf Essex, imported direct from Essex, England, new crop grown.

PRICE: 1 lb., by mail, postpaid, 25c; 5 lbs. (will sow an acre), \$1.00. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 10 lbs., \$1.00; 25 lbs., \$2.25; 50 lbs., \$4.50; 100 lbs., \$8.00. Bags free.



SUGAR BEETS AND MANGEL WURZELS CORN-SAVERS.

There is no root crop grown, of any sort, so profitable for stock feeding as Mangel Wurzel Beets, and they are so easy to raise. They yield all the way from 20 to 60 tons per acre, and are the most healthy diet for hogs during the winter, when they are deprived of clover and grass, and are equally valuable for milch cows. Two bushels of beets with one bushel of corn will go further than three bushels of corn, and will keep your hogs in healthy, thriving condition. Plant from the 1st of April to last of June in rows 18 inches apart. It requires 10 lbs. of seed to plant an acre. After started thin out until the plants stand six inches apart in the row. Pull and store them in a cellar where they will not freeze, and they will keep in good condition for feeding until grass comes in the spring.

PRICE: Postpaid by mail or express, prepaid, 35c per lb.; 10 lbs. (enough for one acre of ground), \$2.00. By freight or express, your expense, 5 lbs., \$1.00.

MAMMOTH GOLDEN GIANT. An improvement on the long yellow mangel, being of considerably greater size, more than half above ground and of a more grayish or rather russet yellow, much liked by cattle. In short, a magnificent root, producing enormous crops. Per oz., 5c; lb., 40c. By express not prepaid, 5 lbs., \$1.25.

CHAMPION YELLOW GLOBE. Finest type of yellow globe in cultivation. Roots immense size. An excellent keeping variety, and has a record of producing 106 TONS PER ACRE. Per oz., 5c; lb., 40c. By express, 5 lbs. or more at 30c.

GOLDEN TANKARD. Indispensable among dairy farmers. Early, hardy and a heavy cropper. Per oz., 5c; lb., 35c. By express, 5 lbs. or more at 25c.

DANISH SUGAR BEET. An improved strain of the White French Red Top Sugar Beet. Wonderfully fine for milch cows. It will yield as much as most varieties of mangels, and we consider it of superior feeding value. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 75c. By express, 5 lbs. or more at 50c.

GIANT HALF SUGAR MANGEL. This is a hybrid or cross between the Mammoth Long Red Mangel and Sugar Beet. Being sweet, both cattle and hogs relish them greatly. Per oz., 5c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 40c. By express, 5 lbs. or more at 25c.

KLEIN-WANZLEBEN. This variety is cultivated on a larger scale for beet sugar factories. It usually yields 15 to 20 per cent of sugar. Our seed is grown in Germany from beets which were tested as to per cent of sugar before setting out. The heavy per cent of sugar makes it also of great value for feeding. Per oz., 5c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 35c. By express, 5 lbs., \$1.15.

In making up your order don't fail to order some of these stock beets. They are all of the very best and most productive varieties grown.



RATEKIN'S LATEST INTRODUCTION, PANICUM CRUSGALLI.

THE GREAT ORIENTAL GRASS: MORE NUTRITIOUS THAN OATS, CORN FODDER OR ENSILAGE.
YIELDS 10 TO 25 TONS OF FODDER TO THE ACRE.

Our attention was first called to this grass by Japanese authorities, who recommended it very highly for feeding dairy cattle, horses, sheep and all kinds of stock, it being very rich in nutritious elements.

At our trial grounds it has proven a great success and far beyond our expectations, producing 50 bushels of seed, 30,000 lbs. of green fodder, 10,000 lbs. straw, 11,000 lbs. of hay to the acre, and has proven to be equal to Alfalfa hay and superior to good corn fodder or oats in feeding for milk. If sown the latter part of April it will be ready to cut for hay the middle of July. Attains a height of 5 to 8 feet according to season, and when desired for hay should be cut just before it heads out, and we urge all our customers to try out this wonderful forage grass. Sown broadcast 18 to 20 lbs.; drill at the rate of 10 to 12 lbs. to the acre. **PRICE:** By mail postpaid, 50c per lb.; 3 lbs., \$1.25. By express or freight, expense of purchaser, 10 lbs., \$2.50; 25 lbs., \$5.00.



PANICUM CRUSGALLI.

A fodder plant grown largely in some parts of the country. Somewhat resembles corn in its general appearance, but the leaves are much longer and broader and the stalks contain sweeter sap. In its perfection it produces a great number of shoots, growing as much as 12 feet high, very thickly covered with leaves. Eighty-five stalks have been grown from one seed, attaining a height of 11 feet. Horses and cattle eat it as freely as young sugar corn. Plant as soon as ground becomes warm at usual corn planting time in hills 3 to 4 feet apart each way, two seeds to the hill. Teosinte is one of the heaviest yielding forage plants known, having yielded 50 tons of fodder to the acre. Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 1/4 lb., 50c; lb., \$1.50; 3 lbs., (sufficient for one acre), \$2.00, by mail prepaid.

YELLOW MILO MAIZE.

A non-saccharine sorghum of high value; cultivated like corn. It is a vigorous grower of deep green color, attaining a height of 8 or 10 feet. Some stalks develop 20 heads. The seed is fed to horses, cattle, chickens, etc. It will mature its main head in 100 days, and will continue growing until frost. Plant 4 to 5 pounds per acre. Pkt., 10c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c, postpaid. By express or freight, not prepaid, pk., 85c; bu. (56 lbs.), \$3.00.

JERUSALEM CORN.

This non-saccharine sorghum is one of the best and surest grain crops for dry countries and seasons. It grows about 3 feet high and makes one large main head and several smaller ones. The grain is pure white, and a good food for man or beast. Use 3 pounds of seed per acre. Pkt., 10c; lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 65c., postpaid. By express or freight, not prepaid, pk., \$1.00; bu. (56 lbs.), \$3.50.



MILO MAIZE.

NOTE—The sorghums all have better drouth resisting qualities than Indian corn. The varieties are many, and may be classed as saccharine and non-saccharine (sweet and non-sweet). The first group includes sugar cane, etc.; the second group Milo Maize, Jerusalem Corn, Kaffir Corn, etc. Within recent years dairymen have widely recognized the high economic value of thickly sown sorghum as a summer food for milk cows.

EARLY AMBER CANE is the most valuable fodder plant in existence. It can be grown successfully in any part of the country. It is one of the best plants to withstand drouth, and is therefore a comparatively sure crop. It is usually put in during the first half of June, sowing 100 pounds to the acre broadcast, or 60 to 75 pounds per acre if sown with a wheat drill. Price is subject to market changes, but it usually advances later in the season. Per lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 50c. By freight, 10 lbs., 40c; 25 lbs., 75c; 100 lbs., \$3.00; 500 lbs. or more at \$2.80.

KAFFIR CORN.

This is a most excellent fodder plant, yielding two crops of fodder during a season. It grows from five to six feet high, making a straight, upright growth. The stem or stalk bears numerous wide leaves. The stalks keep green and are brittle and juicy, making excellent fodder either green or dried. The seed crop is also heavy, sometimes yielding sixty bushels to the acre. Both grain and fodder are excellent. There is no failure about it, as it possesses the quality, going without rain without any loss of capacity to yield. Cultivated the same as our common Indian corn, requiring five pounds of seed per acre. For fodder sow one-half to one bushel, either broadcast or in drills. Pkt., 5c; lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 50c. By freight, pk., 40c; bu. (56 lbs.), \$1.50; 2 bu. or more at \$1.40.



EARLY AMBER CANE.



KAFFIR CORN.

PRICES above named on Cane, Kaffir Corn and Teosinte are subject to market changes, higher or lower, according to market.



PENCILARIA

MILLET. Nothing pays better for a stock raiser and dairy farmer than a few acres of Millet of some kind, for it is of the greatest feeding value and milk producing quality, and yields at least again as much of the most delicious hay per acre as timothy and clover. It should be sown regularly every year, and not merely as a catch crop. When spring is so unfavorable that other crops fail to grow, or when the season is so late and wet that other crops will not mature any more, then there is always the greatest demand for millet. Write for lowest prices, stating amount wanted.

GERMAN OR GOLDEN MILLET. This grows very rank and is one of the best varieties for hay or fodder. On good, rich soil it will make a growth of 4 to 5 feet high, and although the hay may seem coarse yet it is so tender that if cut at the right stage, which is when in full bloom, even the hogs will eat the cured hay quite greedily. A yield of 5 tons of hay per acre is nothing unusual. Sow 3 pecks per acre. **PRICE:** 48 lbs., bu., \$1.50 per bu.

NEW SIBERIAN MILLET. A good millet, introduced several years ago from Russia, and is an entirely distinct variety, the seed being of an almost orange color, but the heads are about the same as the common millet. It stools quite heavily and the joints being so close together the plants are just covered with blades. This is a heavy yielder, and the hay is of very fine quality. It yields from 50 to 70 bushels of seed per acre. Being an introduction from the extreme north, it is very hardy and will prosper under conditions where other varieties fail.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 25c; postpaid by mail. Not prepaid: \$1.50 per bu.

JAPANESE BARNYARD MILLET. (BILLION DOLLAR GRASS.) is also offered by a certain dealer in the West as "Billion Dollar Grass." This variety of millet was first grown here in this country by Professor Brooks of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, who brought it from Japan. It has proven to be very valuable and is highly recommended for the following reasons: It will grow 6 to 8 feet in height and will yield 15 to 20 tons per acre. It may be siloed, fed green or cured into hay, and its feeding quality is always superior to fodder corn and other millets. It can best be sown at any time from the middle of May to the end of July, either broadcast at the rate of 12½ lbs. per acre, or in drills, using 8 lbs. of seed per acre. The seed so far has been scarce and high priced, but we can offer it at a lower price than usual; 30 lbs. per bu.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., 90c, postpaid by mail. Not prepaid: 1 lb., 20c; 15 lbs., \$1.25; bu., \$2.25; 5 bu. and over, \$2.00 per bu.

SAND OR WINTER VETCH. (*Vicia Villosa*), sometimes called Hairy Vetch. This very valuable forage plant is rapidly becoming more popular each year, as the farmers of this country are learning more of its great value. It is very hardy, is valuable as winter cover crop to prevent leaching, and for forage and fertilizing purposes. It is an annual, but re-sows itself and will come up year after year on the same ground. It succeeds well on nearly all soils and thrives surprisingly on poor, light and well stands extremes of drouth, heat and cold. It improves the soil, being a great nitrogen gatherer. It belongs to the pea family, but the vines are much longer and the foliage is more abundant. It may be sown either in the spring or fall with about half a bushel of rye or oats for support. It grows rapidly and is particularly valuable in sections where clover does not thrive. In the North it remains green all winter under the snow, and it is invaluable for early pasturing or soiling. The Department of Agriculture estimates the value of an acre of this Vetch plowed under equal to commercial fertilizer at the rate of from \$16 to \$40 an acre. When sown in August or September it covers the ground before frost and prevents leaching of the soil during the winter and spring. When sown in April or May it can be cut in July, the second growth affording excellent pasture during the summer. The yield of green fodder is from twelve to twenty tons an acre. When raised for hay it should be left standing until some seeds have become well formed; 1 to 1½ bushels of seed required to the acre. Large pkt., 5c; lb., 25c, postpaid. By freight, lb., 15c; 10 lbs., \$1.45; 100 lbs., \$14.00. Bags free.

A WORD ABOUT PRICES ON Millets and Vetch: Prices named above are the prevailing prices at time this catalogue goes to press, January 1st, but are subject to fluctuating market prices. Our prices are always in line with any other reliable seed house, and it would be well to write for firm prices before ordering in large quantities.

PENCILARIA—A WONDERFUL FODDER PLANT. A new fodder plant of untold value. To the farmer for its immense growth of hay; for its excellent fodder; for its quick growing foliage. It is a native of Central America. It is an annual plant, having broad foliage, very much resembling corn leaves. If cut as soon as it reaches the height of two or three feet it can be mowed from four to six times, according to the latitude. If allowed to grow 12 or 18 feet high and cut when the flower heads begin to develop it will yield the heaviest fodder crop per acre of any plant now in cultivation. For feeding it is equal to any fodder, and is relished by any kind of stock, either dry or green.

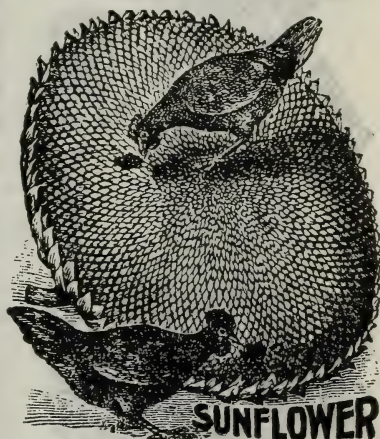
CULTURE DIRECTIONS: If for hay purposes sow very thinly in drills 12 to 18 inches apart, dropping a seed every six or eight inches, or broadcast, 2 to 3 pounds per acre. As a fodder plant sow in drills 3 or 3½ feet apart, thinning out to stand 18 inches apart in the drill. As a green food it will support four cows and other stock in proportion, from the time it is 30 inches high until the end of the season.

PRICES: Per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid. By express or freight, 1 lb., 20c; 5 lbs., 90c; 25 lbs., \$3.25; 100 lbs., \$12.00. Sow some of our Pencilaria. There is nothing better for fodder.

MAMMOTH RUSSIAN SUNFLOWER.

Sunflower seed is one of the best egg producing foods for poultry. It can be sown any time before the middle of July. Plant in hills 3½ to 4 feet apart each way, or in drills. Six quarts will sow an acre. Seeds are the best of food for poultry, and is much cheaper to raise than corn.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; 1 lb., 20c; 3 lbs., 55c. By freight, 10 lbs., 70c; 1 bu. or 25 lbs., \$1.50.



SUNFLOWER



GOLDEN GERMAN MILLET.

RATEKIN'S GRASS AND CLOVER SEED.

READ CAREFULLY.

Prices on Grass, Clover, Alfalfa, Millet and Cane Seed ("Sorghum"), are so fluctuating in value that it is impossible to accurately foretell or gauge future prices and values. Therefore it would be well to write for latest quotations. But to customers at a distance, who cannot lose the time required to do this, will say, if prices are lower they will get the full value of money sent. If higher we will ship all the money sent will pay for. Prices named are the ruling prices at time this catalogue goes to press.

We pride ourselves there is no other house in America that takes such extraordinary care in cleaning and placing on the market a more superior grade of grass seed than our house does. **WE CALL SPECIAL ATTENTION TO ABOVE PARAGRAPH** by reason of the many perplexities we have encountered in our experience handling grass and clover seeds. Many times our catalogue prices and quotations have been entirely out of line; either above or below current prices a month or two after our catalogue had gone to press, but our customers can always rest assured that our prices will be in line with any other reliable seed house of the country, quality and grade of seeds considered.

We are here in the famous "BLUE GRASS DISTRICT" of Iowa, where there is a large surplus supply of all the best grasses and clovers grown, and are always in position to obtain the most choice seed, the very **BEST** there is to offer. In fact, we possess many advantages over the city seed houses, as we are so situated that we can always

have choice of the best that is grown, while the lower grades are shipped away to other seed markets. For these reasons we can always sell a better grade of seeds and sell them at lower prices than other seed houses not so situated. By reason of the advantages named we have for many years handled grasses and clovers extensively, and have made this branch of our business one of our specialties. **WE HANDLE BUT ONE GRADE OF GRASSES AND CLOVERS. THAT IS THE BEST GRADE AND QUALITY THAT CAN BE GROWN.** In addition to the numerous advantages we have related we have the best equipment for cleaning and grading all kinds of grass and clover seeds that can be found in any seed house in the world. Remember in getting prices do not compare them with seeds left by some farmer at a dealer's to sell or in exchange for goods; seed which have never been re-cleaned and which come directly from the threshing machine. We have had instances come under our observation where "good clover seed" would waste one-half in cleaning. One who has not seen our cleaning equipment or seen us cleaning grass seed has no idea of the noxious weed seed and trash, dirt and inferior light seed that are in timothy and clover. In fact nearly all grass seeds.



BROMUS INERMIS.

Of all the grasses that grow or have ever been introduced into this country **BROMUS INERMIS** is the greatest. None has ever proven so valuable and of such great importance. It is a hardy perennial, withstanding the extremes of heat and drouth and of cold better than any other cultivated grass. It has been fully proven that it will not only succeed and grow under about any conditions, but will do well where timothy, clover, orchard grass or alfalfa will wither and die. It will also make the most astonishing yields under such unfavorable conditions. It is a native of Europe and Asia, ranging from France eastward into Siberia. It is thoroughly permanent and grows with wonderful rapidity, producing heavy crops and luxuriant pastures. Its value to farmers of dry regions cannot be overestimated. All kinds of stock eat it with a relish, and chemical analysis made show it rich in flesh producing ingredients, much more so than timothy. It is very hardy and starts very early in the spring, and grows later than any other grass in the fall. There is no grass that will withstand the extreme changes in temperature that **BROMUS INERMIS** will without injury grows 24 to 36 inches in height and can be cut two or three times per year. Should be sown in the fall or early in the spring, using 20 to 25 lbs. seed per acre if sown alone, or if with alfalfa use 12 lbs., with 8 lbs. alfalfa. Our stock of **BROMUS INERMIS** is new crop grown and has been

very carefully handled, and can be depended upon to grow vigorously and with good results.
PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c. By freight, purchaser's expense: 10 lbs. or more, 15c; 100 lbs., 12c. Bags free.

DEFIES DROUTH, RESISTS FROST—BEST GRASS OF THE AGE.

BROMUS INERMIS. Is also known as "Austrian Brome Grass," "Hungarian Brome Grass" and "Awnless Brome Grass."

The experiment stations of Colorado, Minnesota, Manitoba, North Dakota, South Dakota and different grass stations of the Agricultural Department, Washington, D. C., have conducted extensive experiments, and all speak of it in the highest terms.

The editors of the following agricultural papers comment very favorably upon **BROMUS INERMIS**: Orange Judd Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Prairie Farmer, Chicago, Ill.; Northwestern Farmer, St. Paul, Minn.; Dakota Farmer, Aberdeen, S. D.; Nebraska Farmer, Omaha, Neb.; Kansas Farmer, Topeka, Kan.; Homestead, Des Moines, Iowa; Wallace's Farmer, Des Moines, Iowa; Breeders' Gazette, Chicago, Ill., and many others. Could there be any better proof of its value than this?

TIMOTHY is so well known that it needs hardly any description. There is scarcely a variety of natural or tame grass that is more generally cultivated than this. It is suited to moist, rich land, where it grows to perfection and yields under favorable circumstances large crops of hay. If cut in season, which is at flowering time, it makes a most splendid nutritious hay, while for pasture it cannot be recommended, as almost every farmer knows; its growth is not thrifty enough and close pasturing is very injurious to it. When sown with red clover it makes a splendid mixture, and where it is about half and half the timothy yields fully as much as if alone, and you have the clover crop extra. One feeds off the soil and the other the air; the clover greatly enriching the land. For this reason we have added timothy to most all of our clover mixtures, where circumstances will allow.

Owing to the extreme drouth extending from one end of the country to the other, universal all over in the early part of last season, the timothy and other grass seed crops were not only cut short in general, but were a total failure in most parts of this country. By reason of this grass seed of all sorts have gone to a higher price than we have ever before known, and will continue to increase in price to a prohibitory point. We therefore want to insist and encourage those who anticipate sowing to order their grass seeds early. Market prices are so fluctuating we do not undertake to make firm prices beyond present stocks, which are at present sufficient under ordinary conditions to meet the requirements of our trade.

PRICES: **IOWA CHIEF** (highest grade). By mail postpaid: 1 lb., 30c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, \$2.00; bu., \$7.75. Bags included.



RATEKIN'S GRASS AND CLOVER SEED—Continued.

A FEW PLAIN FACTS ABOUT GRADES AND QUALITY OF GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS: The terms so often used by various seedsmen by which different grades of grass seeds are designated, such as "Fancy," "Prime," "Choice," etc., which are not only misleading, but confusing to the ordinary farmer who wants the best there is to be had or grown, and which, by the way, are always the cheapest in the end. On the preceding page we have called attention to the fact that **"WE HANDLE BUT ONE GRADE OF GRASS AND CLOVER SEEDS—THE BEST GRADE AND QUALITY THAT CAN BE GROWN."** This being so we cannot compete in price with cheap, low grades and quality of seed advertised under these confusing and misleading names, and in order to protect ourselves, our customers and the good name of our **HIGHEST AND BEST GRADES OF PURE, CLEAN SEEDS** we have adopted a trade-mark or insignia, **"IOWA CHIEF BRAND,"** to designate them from lower grades of seed which we will hereafter handle only to compete in price with same grades of seeds listed by other seedsmen, but in justice to ourselves and our trade we wish to call attention to the fact that in cleaning seed so as to make our **"IOWA CHIEF BRAND"** grade there is much seed removed which, while not sufficiently high quality to grade **"IOWA CHIEF BRAND"** is suitable for seed, and this will be sold at lower prices, such as Fancy, Choice, Prime and Fair, the quality and grades will be quoted on request in the order here named, but are not listed in our catalogue.

CAUTION—We wish to **WARN** all prospective purchasers of Grass, Clover and Alfalfa Seed to be careful in buying their seeds this year. Fully one-half or more of the grass and clover seed offered this year will be foreign imported seed, grown no one knows where, nor nothing about the age of it, and possibly full of noxious and dangerous weed seeds.



ALL SEEDS NAMED OR QUOTED ON THIS PAGE ARE IOWA CHIEF BRAND.
TIMOTHY AND ALSIKE CLOVER MIXTURE. This is a better combination for either pasture or meadow than Medium Red Clover and Timothy, as they will flower and ripen at the same time. Alsike Clover can be sown to good advantage on moist soil, and will make a much finer hay than this being free from fuzz and dust, and will not cause the horses to cough.

The seed that we offer has been raised together, and, being both of the same size, they cannot be separated so that we have to sell it at a reduced price. The seed contains about a third Alsike Clover and the balance timothy, or is as near in that proportion as we can tell, which is just the proper proportion for sowing. It should be sown at the rate of 8-10 lbs. per acre.

PRICE: Per lb., postpaid, 30c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense; 10 lbs., \$2.00; 25 lbs., \$4.75; 100 lbs., \$18.00.

RED TOP. A hardy native perennial grass, succeeding best on moist land. It accommodates itself to a variety of soils, however, even to quite dry situations, and stands hot climate admirably. It is the most permanent grass we have. It remains green for the greater part of the year. Sown largely in marshy land and sloughs in the West. In the East it is one of their principal sorts. Fancy cleaned seed.

PRICE: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., 90c, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$3.00.

MEADOW FESCUE. We regard this as one of the most valuable grasses for several reasons. Chief among them is that it adapts itself to different conditions of soil and climate and does well all over the United States and Canada, and is also highly valued and largely cultivated throughout Europe. It gives a large amount of early and late feed of good quality, and yields heavily—from 2 to 4 tons of hay per acre, which is of fine quality and very nutritious. As a pasture grass it is particularly valuable, as it is a persistent grower, and one of the earliest in spring and the latest in the fall. It never freezes out or winter-kills, and is not affected by drouth. It grows well, wet or dry, bottoms, hillsides and gravelly and loamy lands and clays, and having many fibrous roots running down 8 to 15 inches, resists the drouth.

PRICE: 1 lb., 40c; 3 lbs., \$1.20, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$5.00.

BROMUS ERECTUS OR MEADOW BROME GRASS. This is a grass which resembles Bromus Inermis in character, but is better suited for poor, light soils and hillsides, where it resists any amount of burning heat, while frost does not affect it. For such places it will prove a blessing, and it will be of inestimable value to countries where the clovers or other grasses do not thrive well. Vilmorin, the noted agriculturist of France, says that twenty years ago he sowed this grass, and the grass still stands extremely well. **BROMUS ERECTUS** grows well on land so poor that other grasses cannot exist, and furnishes excellent pasturage. The seed is sown the same way as *Promus Inermis*, at a rate of 18 to 20 pounds per acre.

PRICE: 1 lb., 20c; 1 lb., postpaid, 28c; 1 bu. (14 lbs.), \$2.10; 100 lbs., \$15.00. Ask for prices.

JOHNSON GRASS. As a meadow or hay grass this variety is highly esteemed in the South, where, during the hottest and driest seasons it can be relied upon to yield heavily. Its value, as shown by chemical analysis, is better than timothy hay. When cut at time recommended there is no possibility of introducing this grass where it is not wanted. We only advise the sowing of Johnson Grass where it is desired to remain as permanent meadow. Should be sown August to October, or in spring, at the rate of one bushel per acre. **PRICE:** 1 lb., 30c, postpaid; 10 lbs., \$2.00; 100 lbs., \$20.00. Bags free.

ENGLISH OR PERENNIAL RYE GRASS. The Timothy of England. Does well also in this country. Good for both pastures and meadows, but rather coarse for lawns; succeeds well in the shade.

Lb., 15c; 10 lbs., \$1.00; 25 lbs., \$2.35; 100 lbs., \$9.00.

Add 10c per pound on this and all the following grasses if to go by mail.

ITALIAN RYE GRASS. Similar to the preceding, but larger and stronger in growth. Lb., 15c; 10 lbs., \$1.10; 100 lbs., \$9.50.

PACEY'S RYE GRASS. Similar to English Rye Grass, but smaller and more dwarf. For that reason desirable in lawn mixtures. Will make a showing on a new lawn quicker than most any other grass.

Lb., 35c; 10 lbs., \$3.50; 100 lbs., \$35.00.

CREeping BENT. A very distinct bottom grass with long creeping stems. Its creeping root and spreading habit form a lasting turf that withstands hard usage better than any other grass.

Lb., 35c; 10 lbs., \$3.75; 100 lbs., \$30.00.

MEADOW FESCUE. Also known as English Blue Grass. Excellent for permanent pasture. Crop short.

Lb., 35c; 10 lbs., \$4.00; 100 lbs., \$35.00.

TALL MEADOW OAT GRASS. For dry soils. Lb., 20c; 10 lbs., \$2.25; 100 lbs., \$19.50.

SHEEP'S FESCUE. Recommended for short herbage. Should be in all sheep pasture mixtures.

Lb., 35c; 10 lbs., \$3.50; 100 lbs., \$35.00.

MEADOW FOXTAIL. Valuable for low ground.

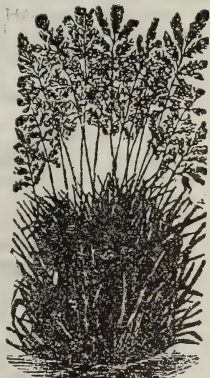
Lb., 35c; 10 lbs., \$2.75; 100 lbs., \$25.00.

KENTUCKY BLUE GRASS. Very valuable and exceedingly popular in many sections of the country as a pasture grass. It is productive and unusually early in spring, furnishing delicious food for all kinds of stock. It is not affected by frost or drouth; is suited to a great variety of soils, succeeding best on a moist, rich meadow. For permanent pastures it is particularly valuable, being of dwarf growth, therefore not so well suited for meadows. Unexcelled for lawns. Our seed is all new crop, best grade, "extra cleaned." Sow 20 lbs. per acre for pasture, or 50 to 75 lbs. for lawns.

PRICE: Per lb., 45c; 3 lbs., \$1.25, postpaid; 1 bu. (14 lbs.), \$5.00; 100 lbs., \$35.00.

ORCHARD GRASS, or Thumb Grass. A valuable grass for pasture or hay land, and on account of the earliness very valuable for permanent pastures. It furnishes the first green bite in the spring and the last in the fall, and is quick to recover from close cropping, and even thrives better the more it is cropped. It is well suited to shady places, such as orchards and groves. Sow 20 lbs. per acre.

PRICE: Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid. By freight: Per bu. (14 lbs.), \$3.00; 100 lbs., \$20.00.



Kentucky Blue Grass.

Lawn Grass Seed—Beautify the Home Place

ABSOLUTELY THE BEST LAWN SEED THAT EXPERIENCE CAN SUGGEST, OR THAT MONEY CAN BUY.



A smooth velvety lawn surrounding a house adds not only to the value, but enhances the enjoyment of every home, whether it be in city, town or country. When properly made, a lawn is the best investment a home owner can make. The following suggestions may be of benefit, especially to those who are about to make a new lawn.

The most important thing to consider in selecting seed for lawn grass is to obtain a proper mixture of several varieties. By properly choosing early, medium and late grasses, a smooth, even green lawn is assured from early spring to late autumn. A given area can support only so many grass plants of one kind, for they all absorb the same kind of food, but if several varieties are sown, the same area will support many more plants, as different sorts live on various elements in the soil. With these facts in mind our IOWA CHIEF BRAND Lawn Grass is scientifically mixed and combined. Our experience of many years has given us intimate knowledge of grasses, their habits and requirements.

PRICE: By mail, postpaid, lb., 50c; by express or freight at purchaser's expense, lb., 40c; 4 lbs., \$1.50; 10 lbs., \$3.50; 100 lbs., 33c per pound. Bags free.

RATEKIN'S SUPERIOR CLOVER SEED.

In other places in this book we have repeatedly called attention to the value and importance of purity and good strong germination of all seeds, especially grasses and clover.

Without the use of the microscope the ordinary farmer or anyone else for that matter, would hardly detect the difference. The man who sold the seed to the storekeeper may mean well and be the best fellow in the world, but such seed is always dear at any price, even as a gift, when you can buy our high grade seed at reasonable—our lowest and best prices.

WHEN YOU BUY YOUR SEEDS FROM US YOU RUN NO RISK. IF NOT ENTIRELY SATISFACTORY ON RECEIPT YOU MAY RETURN THEM AT OUR EXPENSE AND MONEY PAID FOR THEM WILL BE REFUNDED.

PLEASE NOTE: Prices of Clover and Timothy are subject to fluctuations of the market. Buyers should write for firm and lowest price before buying, which we quote by return mail, then there is sure to be no misunderstanding.

MEDIUM RED CLOVER. This is the most important of all clovers and the standard everywhere for hay and pasture. It is known as Common Red or June Clover in many sections. Our Iowa grown clover seed has become widely known for its purity, strong vitality, hardness, vigorous and healthy growth, and stooling qualities, so that now we receive many orders from the most distant parts of the United States. Well posted farmers are beginning to appreciate the difference between it and



ordinary stock. Our "IOWA CHIEF BRAND" grade is the plumpest, cleanest, purest, fanciest grade; tested and of high vitality. Farmers usually sow 15 to 20 lbs. of clover seed to the acre when sown alone, but this seed is so choice that 6 or 7 lbs. is really enough if conditions are favorable, but we recommend sowing 10 lbs. so as to be sure of a perfect stand. About 5 lbs. if sown with timothy.

Per lb., 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00, postpaid. Ask for price per bushel.

MAMMOTH RED CLOVER (Trifolium Pratense Perenne). Also called Sapling or Pea Vine Clover. This greatly resembles the Medium Red, but is of much taller and more vigorous growth. Nothing equals it for hog pasture, as it will produce an enormous yield and is of the highest feeding quality. It gives quick results, making an unequalled crop, and is an excellent pasture grass. If your soil is poor and needs enriching there is no fertilizer as cheap and good as sowing Mammoth Clover and plowing the crop under.

"IOWA CHIEF BRAND," lb., 40c, postpaid; pk., \$4.00; bu. (60 lbs.), \$12.25; 100 lbs., \$20.00.

GIANT CRIMSON CLOVER (Trifolium Incarnatum). This is an annual variety. The yield in fodder is immense, and after cutting, it at once commences to grow and continues until severe freezing weather and makes good hay. Sow in April or May, 20 pounds of seed per acre. The only objection to this is that it winter kills in this latitude. Desirable as a soiling crop.

"IOWA CHIEF BRAND," lb., 35c, postpaid; pk., \$3.00, bu., \$11.50; 100 lbs., \$18.50.

WHITE CLOVER (Trifolium Repens). A small headed white species that is very fragrant and exceedingly desirable for mixing with lawn grass seeds. Although it is not a heavy producer, it is of great value for use in permanent pastures, as it affords a most nutritious food for sheep and cattle. This variety will succeed in almost any soil. Usually about 6 pounds are sown to the acre.

"IOWA CHIEF BRAND," lb., 50c, postpaid; 10 lb. lots, 35c a lb., by express.



Ratekin's Iowa Chief Brand Clover Seed.

ALSIKE OR SWEDISH CLOVER (Trifolium Hybridum). A very hardy clover. Perennial. On rich, moist soils it yields an enormous quantity of hay or pasturage, but its greatest value is for sowing with other clovers and grasses, as it forms a thick bottom and greatly increases the yield of hay; cattle prefer it to any other forage. The heads are globular, fragrant and much liked by bees, which obtain a large amount of honey from them. Sow in spring or fall at the rate of 6 pounds per acre when used alone.

"IOWA CHIEF BRAND," lb., 35c, postage paid; pk., \$3.75; bu., \$12.25; 100 lbs., \$19.50.

NOTE: At pound prices, we send by mail postpaid. In larger quantities the prices are for seed sent by express or freight (sacks included) at purchaser's expense.

SWEET CLOVER (Melilotus Alba, or Bokhara). Tall, shrubby plant, bearing innumerable small white flowers; very valuable for bees, and sown largely along the roadside by beekeepers. Both leaves and flowers have a delightful fragrance. Sow 10 lbs. per acre.

Per lb., 40c; 3 lbs. \$1.10. By freight, 5 lbs. or more at 25c per lb.

WHITE DUTCH (Trifolium Repens). In connection with Kentucky Blue Grass, it furnishes finest and most nutritious pasture for sheep and cows. Also used for making lawns. Sow six to eight pounds per acre.

Lb., 45c, postpaid; by express or freight, lb., 35c; 20 lbs., \$7.00.

BUR CLOVER (Medicago Mac Ulata). Is used mainly in the southern states and in California. It fills in the season when other forage plants have become dried up by the summer heat. Stock of all kinds feed upon the burs, which contain a large portion of nutritious matter. Sow 15 to 20 pounds per acre in August, September or October.

Per lb., 50c, postpaid. Ask for prices on quantities.

JAPAN CLOVER (Lespedeza Striata). Low, perennial, spreading habit. Stands excessive drouth well; flourishes on poorest soil in southern states. Sow 15 pounds per acre. It makes a fair hay, and stock eat it readily when green. It is also valuable for turning under as green manure. Sow in spring broadcast at the rate of 30 lbs. per acre.

Per lb., 30c. Write for quantity prices.



Alfalfa—The Great Agricultural Clover

OUR CIRCULAR ON ALFALFA IS FREE FOR THE ASKING.

ALFALFA IS KING OF ALL CROPS. The United States Department of Agriculture says: "In addition to the hay and seed crop, Alfalfa at two years adds \$100 to the value of every acre on which it grows." There is no state in the Union in which Alfalfa cannot be successfully grown. Alfalfa produces from three to eight tons of hay per acre. It has as much protein as wheat bran. Three hundred stalks have been grown from one seed. It does not exhaust the soil, but enriches it equal to clover. It can be ground into meal and hundreds of car loads are being so ground every week by alfalfa mills to feed cattle, hogs, horses and poultry. It will grow three to five crops per year. Alfalfa in money value is worth 45 per cent more than other clovers and 60 per cent more than timothy. It would hardly be possible to say too much about Alfalfa. It is a working plant which is changing the destiny of many farming sections.

Its long branching roots penetrate far down into the earth, push and crowd this way and that and thus constitute a gigantic subsoiler. These become an immense magazine of fertility to be drawn upon by other crops for many years after, should you ever plow it up.

A FEW HINTS ON ALFALFA. The presence of lime in some form, either in the soil or subsoil, seems to be essential. If it is known there is no lime in the soil, lime should be applied as a top dressing, when the land is being plowed preparatory to sowing the seed. **GOOD DRAINAGE IS NECESSARY**, for an excess of surface water soon rots out the roots.

NEBRASKA DRY LAND GROWN ALFALFA. The great bulk of American grown seed is grown under irrigation and does not possess that vitality in adjusting itself to normal conditions from the seed that it does where grown under natural conditions. We purchase all our seed direct from the growers in southern central Nebraska, and know what we are getting; therefore you can always rely upon seed that you get from us being grown under natural conditions, and of the very best quality that can be produced.

PRICE: 1 lb., postpaid, 35c; 3 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express: Peck, \$3.75; bu., \$14.00; ½ bu. at bu price

TURKESTAN ALFALFA. Seed of this Alfalfa collected in Asia have been so very satisfactory that we have no hesitancy in recommending it as one of the hardiest and best varieties, more hardy than the ordinary variety, having stood a temperature of 45 degrees below zero when the ground was bare. Makes large top growth; also fine root growth.

Lb., 40c, postpaid; by express or freight at purchaser's expense, lb., 30c; bushel, \$15.70; 100 pounds, \$26.00.

RATEKIN'S FINEST SPECIAL MIXTURES.

These Clover Grass Mixtures are selected with the greatest of care and composed of varieties best adapted for different kinds of soil and purposes. From our experience as well as experience of our customers in every part of the country, we are enabled to select in these Clover Grass Mixtures not only the varieties that are suited to the soil, but have them in the right proportion in each mixture. In every instance we mention the quantities which we recommend to be sown per acre and not only have these proven to be sufficient in our experiments, but they have proven to be equally successful and sufficient with our patrons.

OUR SPECIAL MIXTURES FOR HAY.

No. 1. For moist ground and rich soils. Sow 18 lbs. per acre. Meadow Foxtail, Italian Rye Grass, Sweet Vernal, Meadow Fescue, Timothy, Alsike, Tall Meadow Oat Grass.

No. 2. For moist ground which is occasionally overflowed. Sow 16 lbs. per acre. Tall Fescue, Red Top, Timothy, Meadow Fescue, Meadow Foxtail, Alsike.

No. 3. For high and dry ground, light or medium soils. Sow 20 lbs. per acre. Red Fescue, Timothy, Red Clover, Crested Dogtail, Sweet Vernal, Lucerne, Hard Fescue.

No. 4. For high or dry ground, heavy or strong soil. Sow 20 lbs. per acre. Tall Meadow Oat Grass, Sweet Vernal, Timothy, Hard Fescue, Red Top, Red Clover, Meadow Fescue, English Rye Grass, Alsike.

No. 5. For top seeding on marshes and swampy places, occasionally overflowed, the following mixture is adapted. Sow 10 lbs. per acre. Meadow Foxtail, Tall Fescue, Floating Meadow Grass, Red Top, Water Spear Grass.

No. 6. For light, sandy and gravelly soils. Sow 20 lbs. per acre. White Clover, Hard Fescue, Soft Brome Grass, Red Top, Fescue Grass, Bromus Inermis, Sheep's Fescue.

PRICES FOR ANY OF THE 12 MIXTURES: Per lb., 35c, postpaid; 20 lbs., \$4.25; 100 lbs., \$20.00, by express or freight.

NOTICE: It is difficult to over estimate the importance of a good selection and proper mixture of clover and grass seeds for permanent pasture or for hay. The above mixtures are correct. Don't let the value of a few cents stand in the way of your getting the best.

QUICK, ANNUAL, HOG PASTURE MIXTURE, BEST IN THE WORLD; \$4.00 per cwt.

ARTICHOKE ROOTS.

THE NEW LARGE JERUSALEM VARIETY, producing from 300 to 600 bushels per acre. An excellent food for cattle, sheep and milch cows, they are for the production of milk equal if not superior to bran. But their greatest value is food for hogs. Even the labor of feeding is avoided, as the hogs will help themselves if allowed to do so. We consider them the cheapest and healthiest hog food possible to raise, and find that where brood sows have free access to Artichokes they and their pigs invariably do well. Hogs will not only grow, but fatten on them.

PLANTING, CULTURE, PRICES, ETC. Artichokes need planting but once and little or no culture after the first year. Cut as potatoes, only smaller; plant in rows 3½ feet apart. Plow deep, plant shallow, say two inches; the second year, break up the ground as for corn; will come up thick all over the surface. **PRICE:** 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., \$1.00, by mail postpaid. By freight or express; 1 bu., \$2.60; 5 bu., \$2.50 per bushel. (Three bushels sufficient for one acre).



RED RIVER GROWN SEED POTATOES.

In order to secure the best possible yields, combined with the best quality, there is no crop grown that a change in seed is so essential as in seed potatoes. If our selected Red River grown are planted, 300 to 600 bushels can be as easily grown per acre as 50 to 100 bushels scrub stock. To grow a large crop of the big, fine, healthy tubers will not cost any more than to grow a small crop of small, poor potatoes, which are hardly marketable at any price. Nothing gives us more genuine pleasure and satisfaction than the marvelous increase we have had in our potato trade since we have had our seed potatoes grown altogether in the extreme North. There is a world of difference between Northern Red River grown potatoes and eastern, or one grown along the lakes. We have taken potatoes grown in Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and New York and planted them side by side with the same varieties from the Red River Valley and never got half a crop, while our Red River Potatoes would roll out by the hundreds of bushels per acre, often yielding 400 to 600 bushels per acre. Other potatoes would give us from 30 to 50 and sometimes as high as 150 bushels per acre. but this was a very rare yield. Our Northern Grown seed potatoes insure a vigorous growth, an early maturity and the largest crops and finest quality and flavored potatoes that can be grown. We have hundreds of customers who buy one to ten barrels a year for their planting purposes, because it more than doubly pays them. Think of 200, 300, 400, 500 and even 600 bushels per acre and then compare it with the average yield of potatoes from home grown sorts.

We ship our seed potatoes in the spring as soon as danger of freezing is over, so they will arrive in plenty of time for planting. All orders for potatoes are acknowledged as soon as received and forwarded the first day that we feel that it is safe to start them. When shipment is ordered otherwise, shipment is made at purchaser's risk and we assume no responsibility on account of freezing. We do not charge for bags, boxes or barrels. All potatoes are carefully packed and delivered to the railroad company in good order and condition, then our responsibility ceases.

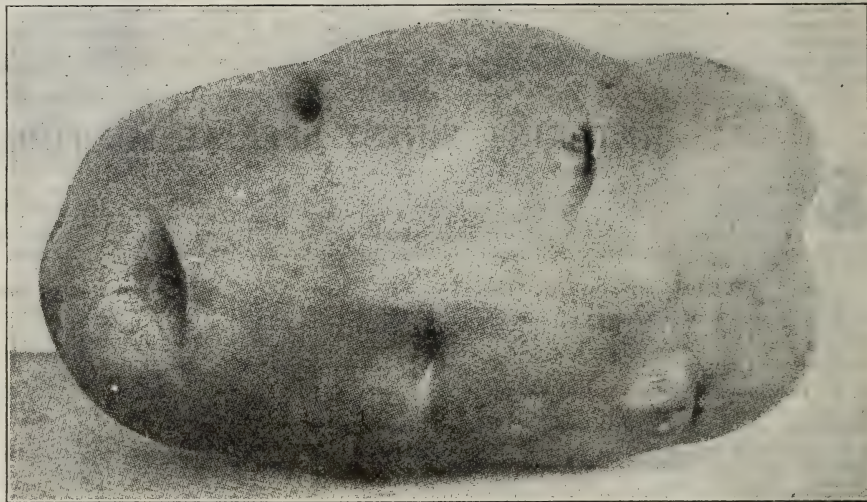
POUND PRICES: All varieties, 25c per lb.; 3 lbs., 60c; postpaid, except when otherwise noted.

RATEKIN'S NEW MAJESTIC.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST POTATO

THE LARGEST, HANDSOMEST, SMOOTHEST AND BEST FLAVORED EARLY POTATO IN THE WORLD.

Never before in the history of the potato world has there been such an enormous yielding Extra Early Potato introduced. The Finest, Grandest and Most Up-to-date Early Potato ever offered, now introduced for the first time. As modest as we are, we cannot restrain our enthusiasm. It's a beauty, such as you never saw before. We have christened it "The Majestic." Ring the bells: Stand aside: Clear the track: Make room for this coming Potato: The Great Majestic, General Purpose Early Potato: None in the wide world its equal. It stands alone; The Great Majestic all purpose potato. Listen, Read, Order, Plant. Make money while you can. Here is your opportunity. We wish we had space to tell you all we know about this wonderful Large Early Potato.



RATEKIN'S NEW MAJESTIC.

It is indeed the most handsome potato ever discovered. Just the right shape; just the right size. In fact, it is the ideal of all varieties. No potato is superior in eating qualities year in and year out. It stands to other potatoes as rich Jersey cream does to skimmed milk. As early as the earliest, and is better than the best.

It is a potato we know will not only make dollars for the grower, but will please him beyond doubt as well. A striking characteristic of this new Majestic beauty is its productiveness. We will say right here that it will yield you more big fine potatoes by far on the same amount of ground than any other sort ever before discovered. What more can we say? Need we say more? Our plea with you is to plant freely of this new potato. You will find it the most profitable potato you ever planted. We know you will thank us and become as enthusiastic as we when once you see the fine potatoes and enormous yield it produces. We know we will be unable to supply the enormous demand there will be for this new potato the coming season. If you are not ready to order your seeds now write us how many to reserve for you, making remittance to cover half your order; then when they can be shipped safely without danger of freezing, send balance, and seed will be sent promptly and at once.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 30c; 4 lbs., \$1.00. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; ½ bu., \$1.40; 1 bu., \$2.50; 3 bu., \$6.50.

RATEKIN'S RED RIVER SPECIAL—A CREATION OF NATURE.

A BRAND NEW FIRST EARLY POTATO.—See inside back cover for complete description, history and prices.

I have grown potatoes in my garden for my own use, I have grown them on my farms for seed and for market. I have watched them growing in the fertile valleys of the Red River, inspected the potato crops of New York, Maine and Michigan, and have tried and tested every new origination as well as the older sorts; in fact, I have made scientific potato growing a hobby. I have bred up several new types at our trial grounds, some were good and stood the test, others inferior and were discarded. Those that were good I placed before the public; they had stood the test and were well worthy of trial. The NEW MAJESTIC was the last of these.

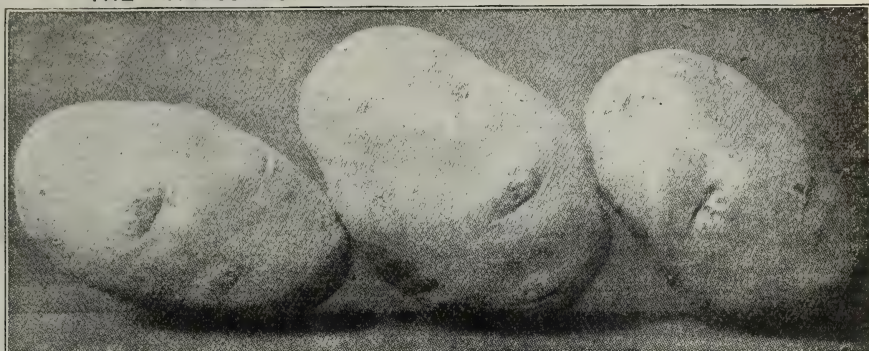
This year I have something new to offer in the potato line. It is the creation of the hybridizer's art, superior to the EARLY OHIO, better quality than the BANNER, ripens first early and will keep with any main crop potato grown. It is a potato for the home gardener, the trucker, or the farmer, and will bring in more real money than any other potato I know of.

My prices are cheap, considering quality, and are well worth every cent I ask for them. J. W. RATEKIN.

RED RIVER GROWN SEED POTATOES.

Extra Early Six Weeks

THE HANDSOMEST AND EARLIEST POTATO EVER OFFERED.



RATEKINS' EXTRA EARLY SIX WEEKS.

Introduced by us five years ago, it now ranks as we predicted, "King of Earlies," and the great favorite with all who have planted it. Out in Dakota, where we have these potatoes grown under special contract, it scoffs at dry weather and drouth, for it always gets there ahead of dry weather; then there is no potato grown that adapts itself to all kinds of conditions so readily as this early wonder. It is not only an extra early, six weeks' potato, but it's good all summer and fall and through the winter. In fact, there is no potato grown early or late, of such fine keeping qualities. It is a handsome oblong, maturing ready for table use in 40 to 45 days from time of planting, or at least a week to ten days earlier than the nearest rival. As shown in the accompanying illustration it is a very smooth even surface; white skin, and very white flesh. Tubers grow close together in the hill, and it is not unusual to get from 10 to 15 good potatoes of marketable size from a single eye. The potatoes begin to form when the vines are only 4 or 5 inches high. The tops and tubers grow rapidly, and at 6 weeks from planting are of good marketable size. **PRICE:** Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; 1/4 bu., \$1.25; 1 bu., \$2.00; 5 bu. or more, \$1.80 per bushel.

PRICE: Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express, purchaser's expense: Peck, 75c; 1/4 bu., \$1.25; 1 bu., \$2.00; 5 bu. or more, \$1.80 per bushel.

PAT'S CHOICE was first introduced in 1900, since which time no other late variety has gained such wonderful fame. The Greatest of All Late Potatoes. IT OUTYIELDS ANY OTHER LATE POTATO; IS OF THE FINEST QUALITY AND FLAVOR. There is nothing like it. Long, handsome and very smooth. Skin is a beautiful pink color, always dry and mealy, whether baked or boiled. It is medium late in season, but an enormous yielder. If you want the best late potato that is grown; the one that is on top for quality, on top for smoothness and handsome appearance and on top for yield, choose Pat's Choice, and you will make no mistake. **PRICE:** Postpaid, 1 lb., 25c; 3 lbs., 60c. By freight or express at purchaser's expense: 1 peck, 75c; 1/2 bu., \$1.20; 1 bu., \$2.00; 5 bu. and over, \$1.75.

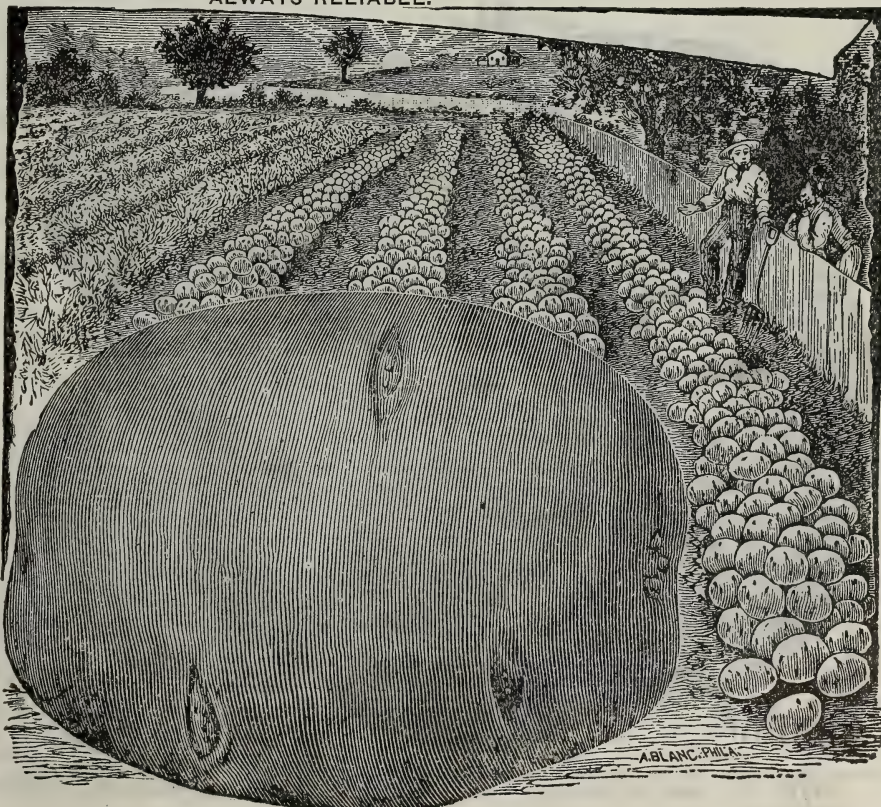
EARLY OHIO POTATOES OUR SPECIALTY.

ALWAYS RELIABLE.

No matter how many new early varieties are introduced, the Early Ohio holds its place at the head of other early sorts. We have more calls for it than any other variety. Car loads of this standard early variety are shipped every year to southern states for seed purposes and the product thereof is shipped back again to our largest potato markets. Our Red River grown Early Ohio are vigorous and healthy, will naturally produce the largest crops and mature fully ten days to two weeks earlier than such as are bought up by seed dealers in large cities, where they are picked up in the open markets, and as long as they have a reddish color and an oblong or oval form, call them "Early Ohio." Our stock of these potatoes is extremely fine this season, and is absolutely pure in variety.

PRICE: By freight or express, purchaser's expense: 1 peck, 75c; 1/4 bu., \$1.10; 1 bu., \$2; 5 bu. or over, \$1.75 per bushel.

OUR POTATOES ARE GROWN IN THE FAR NORTH. Our stock is grown exclusively in the Red River Valley, North Dakota and Minnesota. Red River stock always

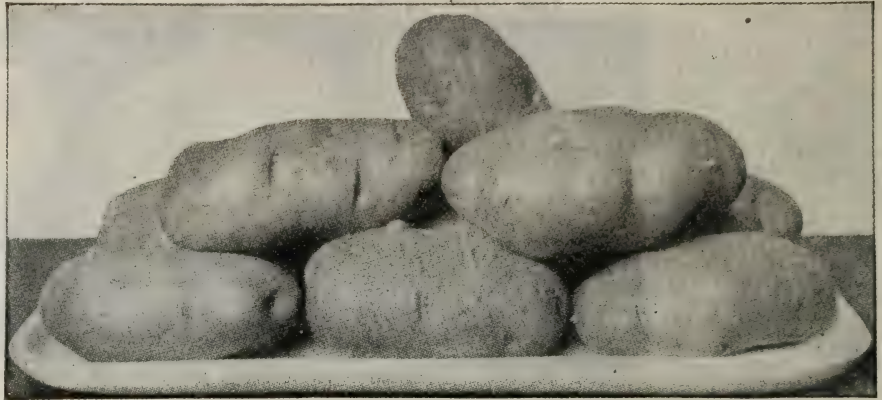


commands a premium over potatoes produced elsewhere.

RED RIVER GROWN SEED POTATOES.

CARMAN No. 3

THE BEST MAIN CROP POTATO.



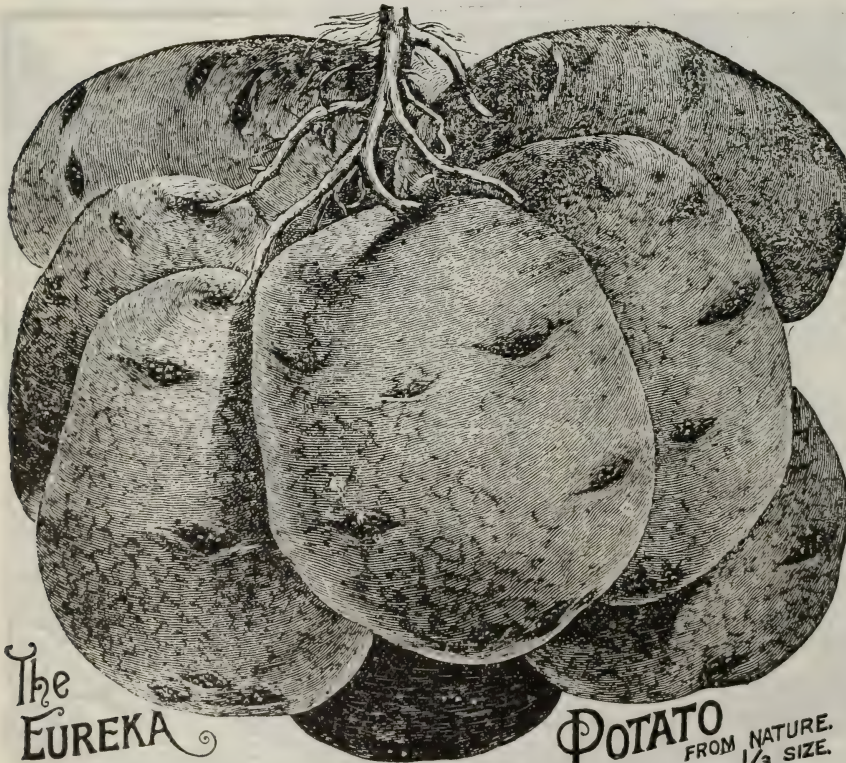
CARMAN No. 3.

The fame of this potato is abroad in the land, and it is unquestionably the very best main crop potato on the market. All the Carman seedlings (originated by Mr. Elbert S. Carman, late editor of the Rural New Yorker) have proven popular; but the Carman No. 3 is already rivaling in popularity the Burbank, and is undoubtedly a much better potato. Without any exception whatever it is the **GREATEST YIELDING POTATO** ever introduced, and it may be fairly claimed that it does not yield any small tubers at all. The tubers are borne very close to the plant, a single turn of the fork turning out every potato. It is of large size and of the shapeliest form. Eyes are few and shallow. It is a perfect keeper and is not surpassed as a table variety. Skin and flesh of extreme whiteness. It has no hollow hearts or any dark parts. We recommend this potato to our customers as being unqualifiedly **THE BEST** of all late sorts.

PRICE: By freight, per peck, 75c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$1.35; 1 bu., \$2.00; 5 bu. and over, \$1.75.

BANNER POTATO. Introduced in 1899. The Banner is the finest main crop white potato on the market. No variety ever introduced has made as good a record in so short a time with all classes of growers on all kinds of soil. None surpass it in uniform handsome appearance. Its shape is a little oblong and slightly flattened, cooking through easily. The eyes are very shallow. The size large and desirable, very few under market size. Always smooth and regular in form; strong and vigorous from the very sprout. The flesh is very white, and whether boiled or baked has the same fine table qualities—always dry and floury. Season, medium late. Choice sorted northern grown stock.

PRICE: Peck, 60c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.90; 5 bu. or over, \$1.75 per bushel.



RURAL NEW YORKER No. 2. One of the largest yielding varieties in existence. Large and unusually smooth, with few and shallow eyes, skin white as is also the flesh, which is of superior quality. Medium late and the best drouth resister. There is no other potato of more handsome appearance than the Rural New Yorker. Although it is a large yielder, it grows but few and small vines. It is very hardy and will stand the heaviest manuring without getting scabby or spotted.

PRICE: Peck, 60c; $\frac{1}{2}$ bu., \$1.00; 1 bu., \$1.90; 5 bu. and over, \$1.75.

"EUREKA" EXTRA EARLY.

The vines resist drouth to a remarkable extent and the crop is matured before the hot, dry summer sets in. Planted with the Bovee, the EUREKA matured ten days earlier and the vines were entirely dried up, while those of Bovee made a second growth. It is an excellent keeper for so early a potato. We have eaten tubers which were in good condition the spring following. The firm white flesh is of good flavor when cooked; the tubers are quite broad and of a shortened oblong form, thick through, with few eyes. The skin is smooth and of a snowy whiteness.

PRICE: Per lb., 30c; 3 lbs., 75c, postpaid. By ex-

press or freight: Per peck, 75c; per bushel, \$2.25; 5 bushels or over, \$2.00 per bushel.

NOTE: We make a specialty of fancy seed potatoes and ship many cars each year. Write us for prices on quantities.



Our Policy *The Fundamental Principles of the Ratekin Seed House*

FIRST: "A square deal" and strictly honest treatment to every customer.

SECOND: To grow every variety of seeds we sell direct to you the best and purest seeds possible to be grown.

THIRD: To give you an absolute guarantee that if you are not pleased in every respect with seeds when received by you they can be returned at our expense and money paid for them will be refunded.

FOURTH: That is our policy. We carry it out by giving every customer absolutely fair and honest treatment, and by continuing to sell in the future as we have in the past seeds of purity and strong germination; seeds that will grow and seeds that will give you the best possible results.

We make you money and save you money when you buy your seeds from us. First, you buy direct from first hands, and our seeds come direct from grower to planter. They are new crop grown—all thoroughly tested before sending out and you can always depend upon them growing and producing good results.

Seed buying comes but once a year for most homes and gardens, and on the seeds depend the crop. For this reason the uppermost questions should be where can I get the best, not where can I buy the cheapest seeds. Old and inferior seeds can always be bought at cheap prices, but such seeds, compared with new seeds of pure varieties, are very dear at any price, even as a gift. The past season we spared neither time, pains, labor nor expense to produce the best that could be grown. Crops generally of many sorts were short and prices in large quantities are somewhat higher, but we are pleased to say to our thousands of friends and customers that our stock of garden, vegetable and flower seeds was never so large and complete, and they are strictly new and first class, and nowhere can such seeds be bought at less price. We absolutely know if you will do your part that our seeds will give you such good results that you will be pleased, and thereby help to increase our trade among your friends and neighbors. We believe there is nothing too good for our customers and know they always appreciate and stand ready to reciprocate by saying a good word for us among their friends.

What We Do—Free Delivery By Mail

All seeds ordered at packet, ounce, pound, one-half pint, pint, or quart prices are sent by mail **POSTAGE PREPAID BY US** to any address in America. We do however, sometimes send by express (**PREPAID**) instead of by mail, but only when there is a saving of cost to ourselves, and when convenient for purchaser to receive them that way.

POSTAGE BY MAIL means we deliver postpaid to any postoffice in the United States any article in this catalog offered by mail.

BY EXPRESS OR FREIGHT means that we deliver the seeds to express or railroad here, and the purchaser pays all transportation charges on receipt of seeds. That means quantities listed at gallon, peck and bushel prices. No charges for packages.

SPECIAL PREPAID RATES TO OUR CUSTOMERS: Recognizing our claims as being among their largest shippers the **EXPRESS COMPANIES HAVE GIVEN US FOR OUR CUSTOMERS A GREATLY REDUCED RATE.** Thus a **TWENTY-FIVE POUND PACKAGE** would cost: To points in Illinois, Nebraska, Missouri, Indiana, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, the Dakotas, Kansas, Michigan and Ohio, from 40c to 90c.

To points in Alabama, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Connecticut, Mississippi, New Brunswick, Delaware, New Jersey and Virginia, from 90c to \$1.30.

To points in the far west and south—Arizona, \$2.00; New Mexico, \$2.00; Idaho, \$2.00; Oregon, \$2.00; Montana, \$2.00; Utah, \$2.00; Nevada, \$2.00; Washington, \$2.00.

Above gives you a fair idea of express charges. When seeds, etc., are quoted by express or freight, it means that you pay the transportation charges; by mail postpaid, that we prepay by mail, \$2.00 on 25 lbs. is the highest limit.

Always send plenty of money to prepay express charges, and if any is left it will be immediately sent back to you.

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO: MONEY—We prefer all money sent by postoffice or express money order; bank draft or registered letter. Do not send loose money in a letter without registering it; it is not safe, and if it is lost we are not responsible.

POSTAGE STAMPS: We will accept stamps when other modes of remittance are inconvenient, and prefer them in 1 and 2 cent denominations. Be particular to use due caution so that they may be kept clean and do not get damp, stick together or attach to the order.

The Vegetable Garden

The vegetable garden is one of the most important and valuable parts of the farm or home, for what is healthier and cheaper than a nice lot of fresh vegetables, such as radishes, corn, lettuce, tomatoes, peas, etc., for the table, any one of which can be easily grown by following our instructions.

Seeds of the very best quality often fail through improper treatment, for instance a small seed may be sown so deeply that the young plant cannot reach the surface. More failures result from disregard of the conditions necessary to germination than from any inferiority of the seeds used.

There are several conditions necessary to the successful germination and growing of seeds. There must be a proper temperature, sufficient moisture, and free access of air. The soil must also be in proper condition. If heavy rains have compacted the surface of the soil and the sun has baked it to a hard crust, it will be impossible even if other conditions are favorable, for the tender plants to force their way through and many perish from this cause alone.

Beets, Peas, Cress, Lettuce, Radish, Turnips, etc., germinate rapidly at a temperature of 45 degrees, but if Melons, Squash, Tomatoes, Cabbage, Bush or Pole Beans, and other plants of sub-tropical origin, are sown under the same conditions, they will be apt to decay, as for their prompt germination they will require a heat of at least 60 degrees. For this reason many seeds fail yearly from too early sowing and the seedsman wrongly blamed. We give full and explicit cultural directions at the head of each variety listed on the following pages, explaining the best manner of seed sowing and planting as found to be most effective at our trial grounds, consequently we feel confident that should you follow these directions carefully and conditions be favorable, you are certain of success.

Our Seed Stocks are all carefully tested for both germination and purity and we use all care and precaution in sending out only pure bred strains of high germination.

We wish you would note that we are offering no freaks, no novelties, nothing but the standard tried and tested varieties, which are sure to please. All of our new originations have been thoroughly tried and tested in our trial grounds, the seed is pure and true and can be depended upon. It is the law of nature and the tendency of many vegetables to revert to their original types, notwithstanding the care of the grower. This is especially true of many high priced new introductions that have not been thoroughly tried, the yellow podded Wax Beans becoming green, the yellow and white Celery becoming more or less green, Dwarf Peas becoming running sorts, etc.

Chief Factors in the Making of a Garden

There are several things to be considered in the making of a garden and a careful study of conditions will aid materially in the success. First, soil is an important point, and good, deep, rich loam on sandy subsoil is the best. If this cannot be had, any garden soil that is well manured will do. Second, the best vegetables cannot be grown in the shade, but must have plenty of sun, and a garden situated on a gentle slope to the east or south will give the best results. Third, good drainage must be had to insure the finest vegetables. This may be secured by digging trenches between the beds. Fourth, use plenty of fertilizers. Nothing is better for the purpose than well rotted manure. Fifth, keep the garden well spaded or ploughed, free from weeds, and the surface smooth and even. Sixth, last, but by no means least, be sure you have good fresh seeds, of high germination and purity, nothing is more disappointing than the making up of a garden and planting to poor seeds which fail to come up. One of the most important parts in successful gardening lies in the securing of fresh, reliable seeds, and we wish to caution everyone in the planting of cheap seeds, as these generally result in disappointment to those using them.

The Cold Frame

This is simply a frame placed upon the ground, no bottom heat being applied. On the outside, during the winter, it is banked with straw, hay or coarse litter. The soil should be very rich and is generally prepared by forking in and mixing thoroughly to a depth of ten or twelve inches a liberal supply of well rotted manure. These frames are prepared in the fall, and young Cauliflower, Cabbage and Lettuce plants set out in time to become well established before cold weather sets in.

Cabbage and Cauliflower should be set to the first leaf and the soil pressed firmly around the plant. In this vicinity the seed is usually sown the middle of September. The plants will be ready to transplant in about one month. In severe weather the beds must be closely covered with mats or straw, and it is best to place in a sheltered situation.

The Making of a Hot Bed

In this section of the country the hot bed is generally made the last of February or the first of March. The time must of course vary according to latitude. Provide a quantity of fresh horse manure from the stables and mix it thoroughly with one-third to one-half its bulk of bedding straw or litter. Leaves are also recommended for this purpose, but they are not always obtainable. After having mixed the manure and litter together tramp down the mass in successive layers, and form into a large pile, so that fermentation will proceed even in the coldest weather. In two or three days fermentation will be apparent by the escape of steam from the heap. Now turn again, and allow the heap to remain two or three days longer, or until the second fermentation commences. Make an excavation or pit 2½ feet deep and of a size suited to the number of plants required. In this section of the country and farther north it is best to make this pit in the fall before the ground is frozen. The pit may be walled up with old boards, stone, brick, whichever is the handiest and should be made in some dry or sheltered spot facing the south or east if possible. While hot bed sashes are the best, it is sometimes inconvenient to get them and domestic cheese cloth will serve the purpose just as well. In using the latter, however, it is best to have boards or mats handy to act as protection against sudden changes and cold weather. The frame should be 18 inches high at the back and 12 inches in the front, which will give the proper slope to catch the sunlight.

When everything is ready, the manure is placed into the pit and trodden down firmly in layers to the required depth, 2 to 2½ feet. Then put on the sashes, and keep the pit closed until the heat arises. At first it will probably be 100 degrees or more, which is too hot to sow the seed in; but in two or three days it will subside to 90 degrees or a little less, when the soil may put on to a depth of 6 or 8 inches. The heat may be readily ascertained by plunging a thermometer into the manure. The soil should be of well rotted sod (or common garden soil will do), mixed with about one-third fine old manure, and in this the seed may be sown thinly in drills 2 or 3 inches apart and afterward thinned out. Air must be given every mild day by raising the sashes at the back. Water with tepid water whenever necessary, and during cold nights and snow storms keep covered with mats or board shutters. Tomatoes, Peppers and Egg Plants should be sown in a separate frame from Cabbage, Cauliflower and Lettuce, as they require more heat. The same directions may apply to hot beds made on the surface of the ground, except that the manure should at least be a foot wider on all sides than the frame.

Monthly Guide to Seed Sowing

The information given below is for the growing of vegetables in the Central States, although, of course, local conditions and seasons in your locality govern the exact time of seed sowing, yet this will be an aid in determining the best time to begin operations in the garden:

JANUARY. Very little can be done this month in any section of the United States, but arrangements can be made for beginning operations in your garden during February. A good plan is to get your hot beds in shape this month, so that they will be ready for planting Radishes, Lettuce, Cabbages, etc.

FEBRUARY. This is about the first month that any work can be done in the line of gardening. Every one who has a hot bed or who does any gardening at all, should sow during this month the following varieties of vegetable seeds, if they are desired for early use: Radishes, Early Lettuce, Tomatoes, Peppers, Parsley, Egg Plant, forcing varieties of Carrots, Early Cabbage, Early Beans, Broccoli. Every family who has a garden should have a hot bed. By so doing you can secure good, strong, healthy plants very early in the year and have them ready for setting out in the garden as soon as the weather is settled and the earth warm.

MARCH. In ordinary seasons, active work can be done in the garden the middle of this month. If you have any plants in the hot bed, these will require attention, and air must be given them at every favorable opportunity. Do not allow the plants to become weak by close confinement in the hot bed. Give them air whenever the weather is warm enough so that it can be done without injury to the plants. If the spring is an early one you can begin gardening by pulverizing the earth and sowing to Beets, Cress, Leek, Carrots, Onions, Peas, Potatoes, Radish, Spinach and Early Turnips. Nearly all vegetables should be started in hot beds this month, if the seed was not already sown in February.

APRIL. Plants that were started the latter part of February or the first of March should be now in good condition for transplanting to the cold frame, if properly hardened off. Cabbage will not be affected by cool nights, as they are quite hardy, but Tomatoes and such plants will not be able to stand any severe weather at all. In the hot bed you can now sow Sweet Corn, Cucumbers, Egg Plant, Melons, Peppers and Tomatoes.

If the ground is warm and the weather is settled you can sow to the open ground. Beets, Asparagus, Broccoli, Early Cabbage, Celery, Cress, Cauliflower, Endive, Lettuce, Onions, Parsley, Parsnips, Peas, Potatoes, Radishes, Spinach and Early Turnips.

If the season is a late one it is always best to sow such varieties as were suggested in March along about the middle of this month. This can be better determined by the planter.

MAY. Work can be done now in the ground without any danger of failure, and a good plan is to go over your seed beds thoroughly, and if any sowing has failed, you should re-seed at once, so as to secure a crop. All plants that are in hot beds or cold frames should be hardened off thoroughly, ready for planting in the open garden a little later. Artichokes, Asparagus, Beans, Beets, Late Cabbage, Celery, Carrots, Corn, Melons, Parsnips, Onions, Peas, Potatoes, Tomatoes and Early Turnips can be planted with safety, in the open ground this month.

JUNE. Work in the garden is now begun in all sections of the country, and one of the principal things to be done this month is to keep the ground well cultivated and free from weeds. Stir up the earth well so as to allow light and air into it, as that will impart life and vigor into the plants. In some sections of the Middle and Northern States where sowing has not all been done, the following may be put in: Lima Beans, Beets, Cauliflower, Cabbage, Corn, Carrots, Cucumbers, Kohl Rabi, Melons, Lettuce, Peas, Pumpkins, Salsify, Spinach, Radishes and Squash.

JULY. This is usually the hottest month in every section, and weeds will grow just as quickly then as at any other time, so care must be used to keep your garden free from them, or your crop will be a failure. Cabbage can be set out for late crop and care must be used to select damp weather for transplanting it. Your tomatoes will probably require support and if the foliage is too thick, it is a good plan to thin it out so as to allow the fruit to ripen properly. In many sections of the country, especially in the far north and the high upland, sowing of the following vegetables are made during this month: Beets, Beans, Corn, Corn Salad, Cucumbers, Endive, Kohl Rabi, Lettuce, Early Peas, Radish, Spinach, Tomato, Pumpkin, Squash and Ruta Bagas.

AUGUST. This is about the last of the summer months for sowing seeds, and only such varieties of vegetables as require a short season to mature can be safely sown this month. You can generally depend on sowing with perfect safety, Dwarf Beans, Cucumbers, Lettuce, Early Peas, Radish, Spinach and Early Tomatoes. Probably the most exclusive sowings at this time are Turnips and in nearly all sections the sowings should be completed by the middle of the month.

SEPTEMBER. The time for sowing seeds is now just about over and the harvesting of root crops, etc., and the covering of others for protection should be started. During this month Celery should be earthed up, and Endive properly tied for blanching.

RATEKIN'S "HOME GARDEN" COLLECTION.

\$1.50 GETS THIS COMPLETE COLLECTION DELIVERED FREE AT YOUR DOOR.

40 Best Varieties of Vegetable Seeds, Including Nine 1-3 Pint Packages of Beans, Peas and Sweet Corn.

THE BIGGEST AND BEST BARGAIN EVER OFFERED BY ANY SEED HOUSE.

1-3 pint Beans, Improved Golden Wax
1-3 pint Beans, Long Yellow Six Weeks
1-3 pint Beans, Kentucky Wonder
1 large packet Beet, Early Eclipse
1 large packet Beet, Long Blood
1 large packet Cabbage, Early Jersey Wakefield
1 large packet Cabbage, Ratekin's Autumn King
1 large packet Carrot, Danvers Half Long
1 large packet Celery, Golden Self Blanching
1 large packet Cucumber, Cool and Crisp
1 large packet Cucumber, Chicago Pickling
1-3 pint Sweet Corn, Peep O' Day
1-3 pint Sweet Corn, Evergreen
1-3 pint Pop Corn, Golden Queen
1 large packet Egg Plant, Early Round Purple
1 large packet Endive
1 large packet Lettuce, Early Curled Simpson
1 large packet Lettuce, Grand Rapids
1 large packet Muskmelon, Osage

1 large packet Watermelon, Cole's Early
1 large packet Watermelon, Kleckley Sweet
1 large packet Onion, Red Wethersfield
1 large packet Onion, Yellow Globe
1 large packet Parsley
1 large packet Parsnip, Hollow Crown
1-3 pint Peas, Alaska
1-3 pint Peas, Gradus
1-3 pint Peas, Telephone
1 large packet Pepper, Bull Nose
1 large packet Pumpkin, Pie
1 large packet Radish, French Breakfast
1 large packet Radish, Improved Chertier
1 large packet Salsify, Mammoth Sandwich Island
1 large packet Spinach, Bloomsdale
1 large packet Squash, Hubbard
1 large packet Tomato, Earliana
1 large packet Tomato, Matthes
1 large packet Turnip, Purple Top Milan

This collection is already put up in sealed packages and cannot be changed. Not subject to any premiums or discounts offered elsewhere.

Free—Free—Free—Free—Free

10c BARGAIN COLLECTION FOR THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

- 1 Packet Pansy, over 40 colors and markings.
- 1 Packet Pinks, all colors, single and double.
- 1 Packet Bachelor's Button, double, all colors.
- 1 Packet Alyssum, sweet and fragrant.
- 1 Packet Calliopsis, finest mixed.
- 1 Packet Marigold, double mixed.

SIX FULL SIZE PACKAGES. All fresh, new crop seeds. This collection has been made up especially so as to secure the best effect for the least money and will produce a gorgeous show of flowers the entire season.

This complete collection of Six Packets of Flower Seeds sent postpaid for only 10 cents.

The New Blue Rambler Rose The wonder of the century. Strong pot plants. Given away absolutely free with all orders for garden seeds in the pkt., oz., ¼ lb. to the amount of one dollar. Send along your order and get one of those new creations. Worth 50 cents at all nurseries and greenhouses.

See colored insert circular for full information regarding this wonderful offer.

FREE EXTRAS

Are sent with each order. Many are the kind letters we have received from our customers, who are surprised and delighted with the present of some choice seeds, plants or fruit, which we send them free of charge. For this season we have several

GOOD THINGS

We will distribute in this manner.

"VEGETABLE GARDENING," BY SAMUEL B. GREEN. A manual on the growing of vegetables for the home use and the market, treating on the rotation of crops, garden tillage, implements, seed growing, green houses, insects injurious to vegetables, methods of destroying them, garden herbs, with a complete classification of vegetables. This book is thorough, practical and a comprehensive guide to vegetable gardening and **SHOULD BE IN THE HANDS OF EVERY FARMER OR GARDENER.** 265 pages, fully illustrated, 50c.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER. We will give one copy of this book free upon request with every order for garden seeds in the packet, ounce and ¼ lb., amounting to \$2.00 or more. Get your neighbors to send along their orders with you and obtain a copy of this valuable book **FREE.**

This offer does not include any previous discount or premiums, and is only good for orders for seeds in the packet, ounce and ¼ lb.

I have been very much pleased with the seeds I have bought of you the last three years. They have been satisfactory in every respect. We have been very successful with the Maule's Early Peas; our neighbors ask us, "didn't you sweeten these peas?" Icicle Radish and Enormous Tomatoes are winners, as well as good quality. Your Danish Ball Head Cabbage beats them all in quality.

BEN F. PLUMMER, Forest City, Mo.

Mr. J. W. Ratekin:

Atkins, Neb.

Dear Sir—I must write you about the seeds I sent to you for last spring. The corn is the best I ever had; the watermelons and muskmelons are fine; the popcorn was O. K., and the onions are far ahead of anything I ever saw and as big around as saucers. I want to grow seeds for you next year, and as you have farmers grow some of your seeds, I would like to get my dipper in and grow some for you, such as onions, carrots, melons and tomatoes. I forgot to say my tomatoes are the best I ever grew, and from the small sample of buckwheat you sent me I grew a half bushel of the finest I ever saw, enough to get a fine start for another year. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, as ever, very truly yours.

JOE BRUDER, JR.

A Complete Vegetable Garden

If you have never bought one of our Vegetable Seed Combinations you cannot begin to realize what big value we offer for a mere trifle.

Each year we grow an immense quantity of seed and sell more than many dealers combined. That is why we can give big value. To prove to you that we give you more for the money than any other seedsmen, we want you to read the following:

TWENTY EXTRA LARGE PACKAGES OF CHOICE VEGETABLE SEEDS OF EARLY AND LATE VARIETIES

- 1 Large Packet Early Beets
- 1 Large Packet Late Beets
- 1 Large Packet Early Cabbage
- 1 Large Packet Late or Winter Cabbage
- 1 Large Packet Early Onions
- 1 Large Packet Late Onions
- 1 Large Packet Early Lettuce
- 1 Large Packet Late Lettuce
- 1 Large Packet Early Radishes
- 1 Large Packet Late Radishes
- 1 Large Packet Celery
- 1 Large Packet Early Turnips
- 1 Large Packet Late Turnips
- 1 Large Packet Early Carrots
- 1 Large Packet Late Carrots
- 1 Large Packet Cauliflower
- 1 Large Packet Winter Spinach
- 1 Large Packet Tall Kale
- 1 Large Packet Dwarf Kale
- 1 Large Packet Parsley

Others would charge you \$1.25 for this collection, but we will send it by mail for only 50 CENTS, POSTPAID. No premium with this collection.

WE GUARANTEE ALL OUR SEED

To be of highest quality and germination, and to be exactly as represented. All seed is shipped subject to your own approval. If not found satisfactory, you are at liberty to return it within 10 days and money paid for same will be cheerfully refunded. We want every one of our customers to grow good bountiful crops, and we will help you if you will give us a chance. Anything not made plain to you, be free to write us, and always remember that we have your welfare at heart, because by helping you we keep you for a continuous customer.

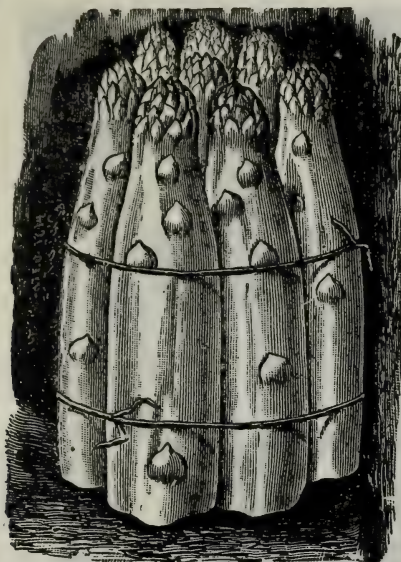
I sent for five ounces of your onion seed, two each of Red Globe and Prizetaker, and one of Mammoth Silver King. The Silver King, as they came in early, I bunched and sold at five cents a bunch when they were gone I sold Prizetaker until they were ripe, when I pulled 24 bushels of fine onions. The prizetakers were the larger of the two varieties. Old settlers tell me they are the largest onions they have ever seen grown here. I received for the ripe onions \$1.00 per bushel, and after keeping 2½ bushels for my own use, I have sold in all, bunched and ripe, \$36.35 worth, and can say I am well pleased with my onion seed and with all other seeds ordered from you. I will send you my order for 1907.

MRS. LAURA SHEADA, Arcadia, Kan.

The onions came in today; we pronounce them "very fine." In fact, we have never seen a finer specimen of this particular variety, the Yellow Globe Danvers. You ought to find the growing of such onions in quantities very profitable. Unless you wish them returned, we will keep them and preserve them in our museum, as an illustration of what Louisiana is capable of producing in this line.

E. J. WATSON, Horticulturist, North Louisiana Experiment Station, Calhoun, La.

ASPARAGUS.



Sow the seeds in drills, about one inch deep, and the rows about one foot apart. Keep the soil mellow and free from weeds during the summer, and in the fall or succeeding spring the plants should be set about one foot apart and the crown four inches below the surface. The beds should be narrow so as to permit of cutting to the center. Before winter cover the transplanted beds with about four inches of manure. Salt is an excellent manure for asparagus. Sow a little on the surface in the spring and it will keep down the weeds. The young tops may be cut for the table the second summer, but not very freely until the third.

Conover's Colossal. A mammoth green sort of the largest size and of good quality.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 40c.

Columbian Mammoth White
 A new and entirely distinct variety that produces shoots which are white and stay white as long as fit for use. It is more robust and vigorous in habit and throws up larger shoots and fully as many of them as Conover's Colossal, and requires no earthing up in order to furnish the white shoots so much sought after.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Palmetto. Mammoth in size, even and regular in growth and appearance. Usually ready for market before other varieties.
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

Asparagus Roots. We can supply a goodly quantity of selected two-year old Asparagus Roots, our own growing, in any of the above varieties. Shipment to be made when weather conditions will permit.
PRICE: By mail, postpaid, 35c per doz., \$1.25 per 100. By express purchaser's expense, \$1.00 per 100, \$7.50 per 1000.

ARTICHOKE.

This vegetable is a great delicacy, highly valued in all parts of Europe, and also one of the most prominent table vegetables in California and other parts of this country. The scales and bottom of the flower are eaten either boiled or raw, as a salad. The young suckers are sometimes tied together and blanched and served in the same manner as asparagus. The plants thrive best in deep, rich soil, where water will not lodge about them during winter. Plants are set in rows three feet apart and two to three feet apart in the row. The crowns should be covered with coal ashes in the winter to shed the water, and over these a good covering of leaves, held in place by a little earth or litter. When spring arrives remove the leaves, but do not disturb the coal ashes until signs of growth appear, after which the ashes should be spread out over the ground. Seeds may be sown in the hotbed same as the tomato and transplanted in May. It makes a good growth the first year and some flowers may be had in September, but the second year all plants will flower and continue to do so for years.

Large Green Globe. The best variety for general use, buds large, scales green; very thick and fleshy. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., \$1.00.

For Artichoke Roots, the great Hog Fattener and corn saver, see farm seeds.

BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

One ounce will produce about 3000 plants. Of the cabbage family, producing numerous heads on the stem, of the most delicious quality, as well as cabbage-like head at the top. Use and cultivate the same as winter cabbage.

Ratekin's Improved. An improvement on the standard American sort. It is thoroughly acclimated; dwarf, robust habit; will endure the climatic changes better than the foreign sorts, and much freer from mildew and aphids. Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 75c.

BORE COLE—See Kale, folio 71.

BROCCOLI.

Growth and habit like the cauliflower, except that it is more hardy, and the heads are not as compact. It is not desirable in warm or dry countries, but is of special value in the north. Cultivate and use the same as cauliflower.

White Cape. Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c.



RATEKIN'S BOUNTIFUL.

Bush or Snap Beans—Green Podded

NOTE—Each packet of Beans will contain two ounces, sufficient to plant about 20 hills. All Beans priced by the packet, ½ pint, pint and quart are delivered postpaid. Persons ordering by express, not prepaid, may deduct 8c per pint or 15c per quart from these prices quoted. Prices by the peck or bushel do not include delivery, but must be sent by express, not prepaid.

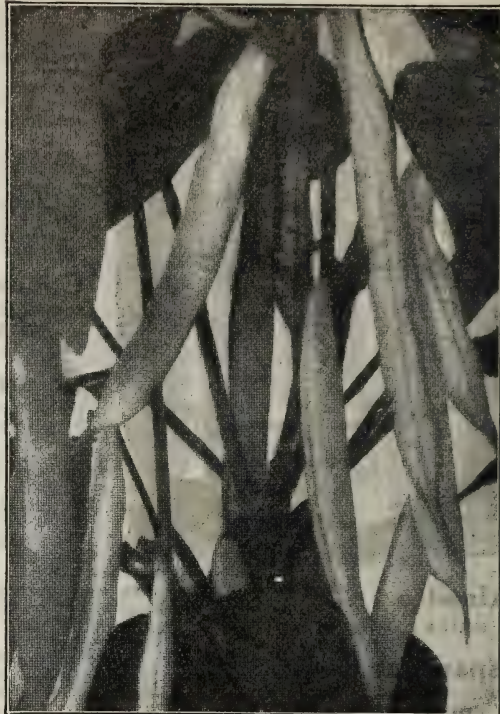
(One quart will plant 100 feet of drill.)

CULTURE: Beans are somewhat tender, but it often pays to take some risks. Plant in warm, loamy soil at the beginning of settled, warm, weather in spring, and at intervals for succession until August. Rows may be made two feet apart, and the Beans planted a few inches apart in drills, or three to four beans in hills 6 to 8 inches apart. Cultivate and hoe frequently, always, however, when the vines are perfectly dry. In hoeing draw the soil up towards the rows or plants.

Ratekin's Bountiful. (See cut on previous page.) The plant is of remarkably handsome and thrifty growth, being practically rust and mildew proof. **IT IS VERY HARDY, EXTREMELY EARLY, VERY PROLIFIC AND BEARS CONTINUOUSLY FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.** It is the first to give pods fit to pick in the spring and the last to yield edible pods in the fall. In fact, frost usually finds midsummer plants still in pod and blossom. Moreover, the pods are absolutely stringless and entirely free from any tough, membranous lining not only when young, but this tender, "SNAP BRITTLE" quality is retained even into maturity. In addition it is most excellent shelled after it is ripe for winter use. We urge our customers to plant heavily of this most excellent variety for either home use or market. You will never regret it. **PRICE:** Per pkt., 10c; pint, 40c; quart, 75c; ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Long Yellow Six Weeks. Very early and prolific long green, tender, flat pods, matures quickly. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c; ½ pk., 70c; pk., \$1.25.

Improved Refugee, or 1000 to 1. Our strain is **EXTRA FINE.** True bush grown, 15 inches in height, branching freely. The pods are nearly round, light green, 5 inches long, tapering to a slender point; fleshy, brittle and mild in flavor, but with slight strings. Rather later than the other green-podded sorts, but **EXTREMELY PROLIFIC.** Very popular with canners on account of the handsome appearance of the pods when picked while quite young. **Pkt., 10c; pint, 25c; pk., \$1.50.**



LONG YELLOW SIX WEEKS.

Black Valentine. A great improvement over the popular standard sort Early Red Valentine, being one-third longer than that variety; pods perfectly round and straight. It is suited for both early and late planting. Being extremely hardy it **WITHSTANDS BOTH THE EARLY AND LATE FROSTS**, which kill other varieties. A most desirable sort for market gardeners, owing to its heavy yielding qualities, large and handsome appearance. Popular in the south on account of its blight resisting qualities.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pint, 15c; quart, 50c; ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Red Valentine. The pods are very fleshy, round and saddle backed, with only slight strings. Bushes grow uniform, about 15 inches in height, and produce a large crop. It is an old standard and one of the most profitable sorts for private use or market.

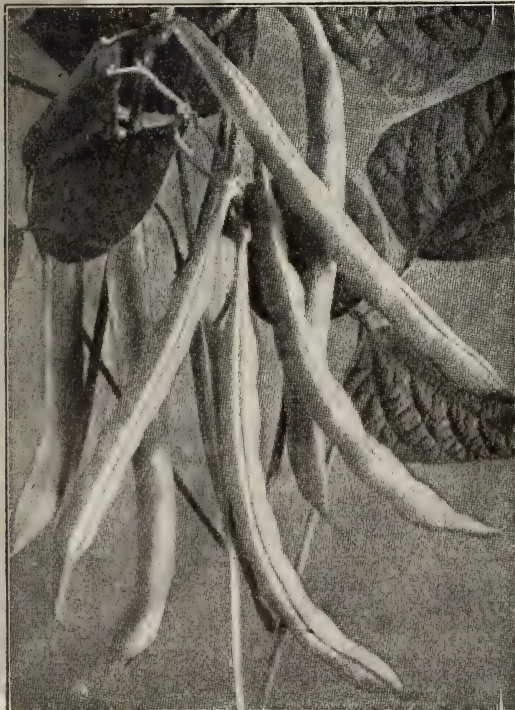
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c; peck, \$1.50.

Giant Stringless Bean. A distinct new cross-bred variety, possessing all the merits of the old favorite Round Pod Valentine, which is one of its parents, and having the following additional merits: The pods average one-third larger; they are absolutely always stringless, round, full and fleshy; it is more prolific; its quality is unsurpassed. **Pkt., 10c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; pk., \$1.50.**

Ratekin's Stringless Green Pod Bush.

This bean, we are sure, will be found superior to the Valentine and Refugee, and will take the place of these varieties both for market, home use and canning. It is not only earlier than Valentine, of the earliest strain, but the pods are larger, handsomer and of better quality, and the plants more vigorous and prolific. We advise gardeners to try this bean. It will be found profitable. Everyone who wants a fine flavored, tender snap bean for home use should plant this variety.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.



RATEKIN'S STRINGLESS GREEN POD BEAN.

Bush Beans—Wax Sorts

Ratekin's Kidney Wax. The beans being pure white, present the most attractive appearance when cooked. The fresh pods remain tender longer than those of any other variety. The plants continue in bearing for a long period. It outyields the prolific Davis' White Wax, and is of superior quality. The pods are straight, of a bright lemon-yellow, brittle, meaty and entirely stringless at all stages of growth. **IT IS THE VERY BEAN THE CANNERS AND TRUCKERS HAVE BEEN SEEKING FOR YEARS,** as it combines quantity, quality and beauty in the pods, which can be used as a string bean until large enough to shell, while the seed, being large and pure white, is most desirable for shell beans, both for summer and winter use.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 20c; quart, 60c. By express: ½ peck, \$1.25; peck, \$2.00.

Improved Golden Wax. In spite of all the new sorts of beans being introduced every year, our trade calls for more "GOLDEN WAX" than any other variety. This great popularity is due largely to the fact that the variety we have is a great improvement on the old "GOLDEN WAX," having larger pods and being much more prolific. This improved stock is one of the handsomest beans that we have ever seen, the pods being of dark, rich golden yellow color and of perfect shape. For family or market you can make no mistake in planting them.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pint, 25c; quart, 45c. By express: ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Davis' White Wax. A new white, rustless, productive, wax-podded bean; pods flat, very long, white, straight and handsome; seeds clear white, excels all others in hardiness and productiveness. Valuable for market gardeners and for canners' use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.90.

German Black Wax. We are so thoroughly satisfied with this improved strain of Black Wax that we have discarded the old stock altogether; this being more vigorous and far more productive, with length, borne well up among the foliage, curved, cylindrical, thick, fleshy and of a clear,



DAVIS' WHITE WAX.

waxy, white color, with long, slightly curved point; remain a long time in condition for use as snaps. Beans small, oblong, jet black. No one can afford to plant the old Black Wax or Butter Bean, as this is much better in every respect.

PRICE: Postpaid, pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c.

Currie's Rust Proof Wax.

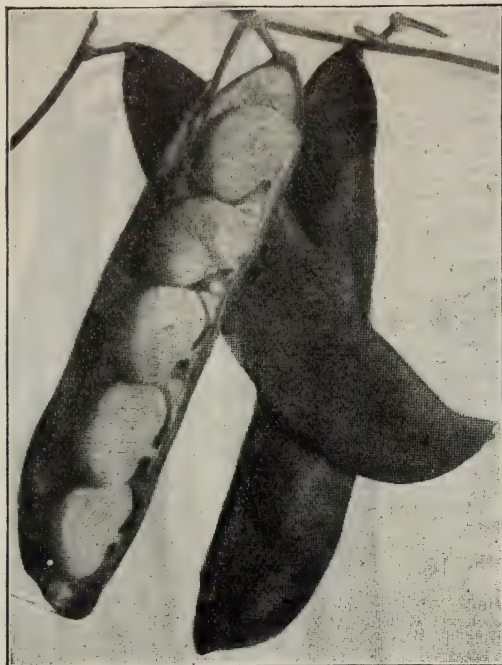
An improvement on the old-fashioned Golden Wax. It is absolutely rust-proof; the pods grow long, flat, are very tender and of the finest quality.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ peck, 75c; peck, \$1.25.



GOLDEN WAX.

LIMA BEANS—Cont'd.



BURPEE'S BUSH LIMA.

Dwarf or Bush Limas. This is a comparatively new class of Lima Beans that is becoming very popular. They are of true bush form, growing only 15 to 20 inches high, and are fully two weeks earlier than the climbing Limas. Very desirable, as their cultivation does away with the labor of staking.

Burpee's Dwarf Lima. The only true form of the large, luscious Lima Bean. As large as the common Lima and equal to it in every respect. Enormously productive. Dwarf bush form, growing only about 18 inches high. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c; peck, \$1.50; bu., \$5.75.

Henderson's Bush Lima Beans. Magnificent dwarf growing Lima; very early, of a delicious flavor, extremely productive and should be planted in every garden in America. It's early. It's fine. It's just the thing for a family garden. It is wondrously prolific. A package or a pint will furnish sufficient for a good sized family. It is one of those beans that can't be improved upon.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c. By express: Peck, \$1.90.

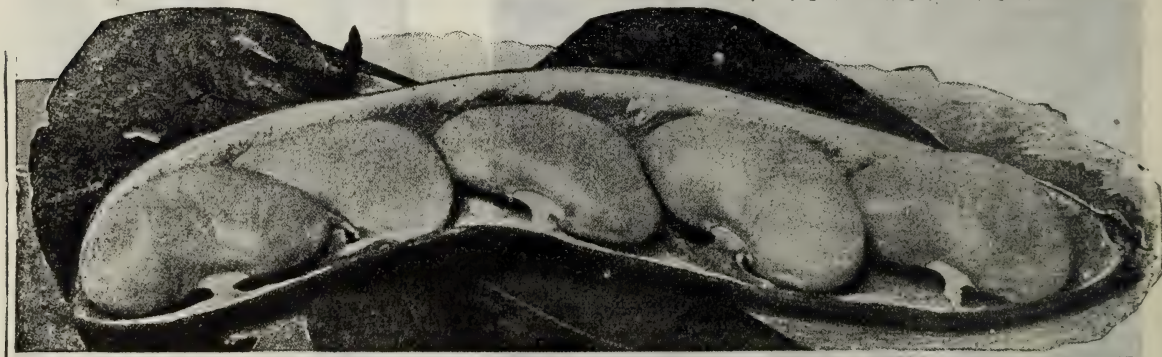
POLE OR CLIMBING LIMAS.

Ratekin's Giant Podded Lima. Is the largest and heaviest cropper of all Limas. It is earlier than King of the Garden Lima and a heavier yielder. A very vigorous grower; the vines attain a height of 10 to 12 feet, excelling in this respect all other Limas. **RATEKIN'S GIANT PODDED LIMA** is the largest podded, the largest seeded, and most productive of all Lima Beans and of the most **DELICIOUS FLAVOR**. We have been breeding this type the last four years at our trial grounds and offer to the trade for the first time this year.

PRICE: Per pkt., 10c; ½ pint, 20c; quart, 60c. By express: ½ peck, \$1.25; peck, \$2.00.

Lima, King of the Garden. More extensively grown than any other Lima. It is a heavy yielder on all kinds of soil and of excellent flavor. There is not a better strain on the market than our **KING OF THE GARDEN**. The pods are of enormous size, often measuring 8 to 9 inches, containing as many as 8 to 9 beans.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 30c; qt., 45c; pk., \$1.75.



RATEKIN'S GIANT PODDED LIMA.

POLE BEANS.

Kentucky Wonder, or Old Homestead. We can recommend this as one of the earliest and unsurpassed for using in the green state. It is enormously productive; the long, silvery, green pods hanging in great clusters from top to bottom of the pole. While young the pods somewhat resemble the popular old Refugee. This is the best and most profitable bean for the market gardener, the pods being so showy and produced so abundantly. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; peck, \$1.90.

Lazy Wife Pole Bean. The pods are produced in great abundance and measure 6 to 8 inches in length; they are broad, thick, very fleshy, and entirely stringless. The pods retain their rich, tender and stringless qualities until nearly ripe, and are unsurpassed in all stages. Each pod contains 6 to 8 round, white beans, which make excellent winter shell beans. They are late to mature, but are valuable to extend the season. This is an excellent bean, and is sure to give satisfaction.

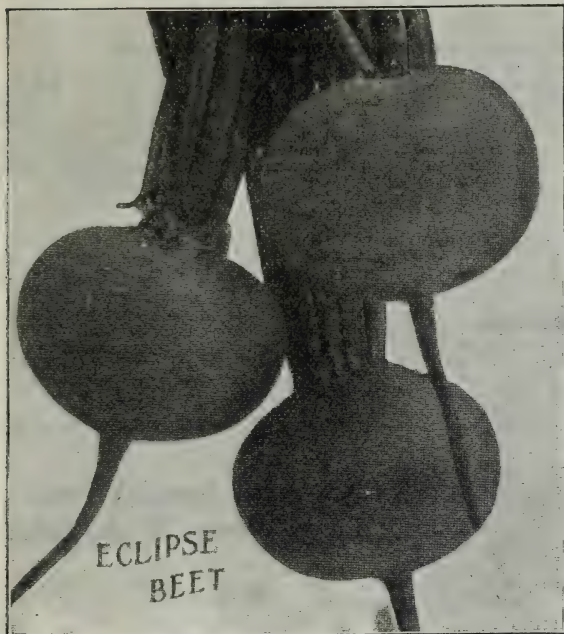
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c; pk., \$1.90.

White Dutch Case Knife Yields an immense crop of handsome, flat white beans of excellent flavor. Cooks easily. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express, ½ peck, \$1.00; peck, \$1.75.

Red, Speckled, Cut Short, or Corn Hill. An old variety, very popular for planting among corn. It will give a good crop without the use of poles; vines medium, twining loosely, with dark colored, smooth leaves and white blossoms in small clusters; pods short, cylindrical and tender; beans nearly oblong, cut off diagonally at the ends; white, covered at one end and slightly over the whole surface with reddish-brown dots. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 35c; peck, \$1.75; bushel, \$5.00.

Horticultural Pole Bean. The mammoth pods are beautifully striped and splashed with brilliant carmine; very showy and attractive, and the immense beans are of the best quality. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.

Beets



CULTURE. The best results are obtained on a deep, sandy loam. For general crop sow as soon as the ground will permit in drills 18 inches apart and thin out 3 inches in the row. For winter use the turnip varieties may be sown in June, and the beets may be kept by storing in a cellar and keeping covered with sand or sandy soil to prevent wilting, or they may be kept out doors in pits such as are used for apples and potatoes. One or two ounces, or single packets of two or three sorts, will give a good supply for a large family. It is best to sow in freshly prepared soil, which should be pressed firmly over the seed. One ounce sows 50 feet of drill; four or six pounds for one acre.

Ratekin's Extra Early. Extremely early. Of fine globular form; the sweet, tender flesh is of alternate rings of light and dark pink. **PRICE:** Per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; per lb., 75c.

Extra Early Egyptian Blood Turnip. The best variety for forcing, and excellent for first early crop out of doors, being very early, with small top. Leaf stems with veins dark red; leaf dark green, dotted with red; roots very dark red, rounded on top, but flat beneath, with very small tap roots; flesh dark red, zoned with lighter shade; hard, crisp and tender when young, but becoming woody with age. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Early Eclipse. Tops small, dark purplish green, shading to lighter color on outside of leaves. Roots nearly globular, with small tap root and very small collar. Flesh dark red, zoned with a lighter shade; very sweet, crisp and tender, especially when young. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

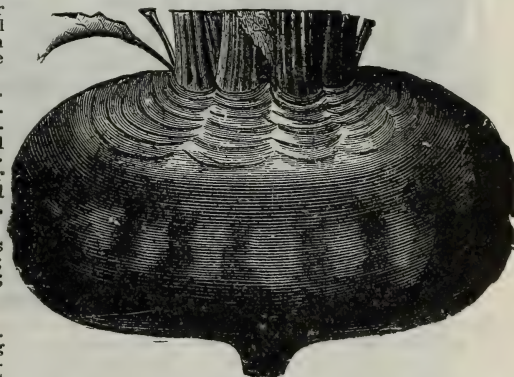
Extra Early Dark Beauty. One of the earliest ever grown. Beautiful oval shape, and the color is a rich dark red. Flesh is fine grain and cooks tender; rich and sweet. Its flavor is superb, free from side roots and smooth, and is very beautiful in market. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 18c; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 30c; lb., 50c.

Crosby's Egyptian. The name of this variety is misleading, as it resembles the Egyptian only in its extreme earliness. It is larger, lighter colored and more nearly spherical; one of the best for early planting out of doors. It is a most excellent sort, becoming fit for use sooner than any other variety, but it is not as well suited for forcing in hot-beds or for transplanting as the Egyptian. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

Improved Blood Turnip. Popular everywhere; roots fine; symmetrical in shape; flesh deep blood red, tender and sweet; grows to good size; fine for early use and desirable for winter. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; 1 lb., 50c.

Half Long Blood. An excellent sort for winter use. Roots not as long as the "Long Smooth," but considerably thicker, always smooth and handsome. Flesh sweet, tender and of dark red color. An excellent keeper. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Detroit Dark Blood. A most excellent turnip rooted sort. It grows to a large size, is of most handsome appearance, and is very productive in all soils and locations and in all seasons. Leaf stems and veins are dark red, blade green, roots globular, perfectly smooth, dark blood red. Flesh bright red, toned with a darker shade, very crisp, tender and sweet, remaining so a long time. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 15c; lb., 60c.



CROSBY'S EGYPTIAN.

NOTE: FOR MANGELS AND SUGAR BEETS FOR STOCK FEEDING, SEE FARM SEEDS DEPARTMENT.

I WILL GIVE \$10.00 IN CASH PRIZES

FOR THE BEST CHILDREN'S GARDEN.

All children should be interested in gardening. It is not only one of the most healthful of occupations, but also a money maker and an industrious boy or girl can save a neat little sum each year from the profits on but a small piece of ground. I want to see a greater interest displayed in gardening by the younger generations. It is a solid basis upon which to begin the foundation of future life. In view of this I am offering a cash 1st prize of \$5.00, second prize \$3.00, third prize \$2.00, to the boys or girls writing me the best letter telling what success they have had from using Ratekin's Seeds. Send photos of garden if possible, it will aid us in selecting the winner. Contest will close October 1st and prizes be awarded October 15th. This is a garden contest, not a literary match, and prizes will be awarded accordingly.

AMERICAN GROWN.

Cabbage

HIGHEST QUALITY.

We pride ourselves on having the best, purest and highest grade of cabbage seed that is offered, or at least it is surpassed by none. Compared with the cost of seed, there is more money in growing cabbage than in any other crop and there is nothing that growers should be more particular about.

SOW ONE OUNCE FOR 3000 TO 4000 PLANTS; FOUR OUNCES FOR ONE ACRE.

CULTURE: For plants of the earliest sorts sow seed in January or February under glass, and pick out in flats or frames about 2 inches apart each way. Transplant to open ground as soon in spring as the land can be properly prepared. A rich, warm, fibrous loam is best. Have the plants in the rows 20 to 24 inches apart, and rows at least 2 feet apart. Give thorough cultivation, and irrigate in dry weather if practicable. Protect against the ravages of cutworm, maggot and green worm. A little nitrate of soda applied around the plant is of great benefit. Potash applications, such as wood ashes or muriate, may also do much good. For late cabbage plants, sow seed in drills in open ground during April and May, and transplant in June and July, giving the plants more room than allowed for earliest cabbages. Dusting with tobacco dust, insect powder, etc., or splashing with hot soapsuds, especially Whale-Oil Soap solution, are good and safe remedies for some of the insect pests attacking plants of the cabbage.

Early Jersey Wakefield.

The earliest and hardest leading of extra early cabbages. Our seed is new and good. Heads conical, compact, solid and of excellent quality. The thick, stout leaves and compact habit makes it the best for wintering over and very early setting. Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00.

Ratekin's Washington Wakefield Cabbage.

(Early). We introduced this cabbage in 1893, at which time our stock was limited. We received so many letters of praise and congratulations regarding it that it seemed as though everyone who tried it must have written to make known their satisfaction. All gardeners are so familiar with Wakefield Cabbages that description is unnecessary. The engraving shows the character of the Washington Wakefield. It is fully as early as any other strain of Wakefield Cabbage and double the size. No other stock equals it in earliness, size of head and purity. **PRICE:** Large pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50. No other cabbage of which we have knowledge has aroused such enthusiasm among cabbage experts as has our Washington Wakefield.



Ratekin's Special Strain, Early Jersey Wakefield.

Undoubtedly the very finest strain of this well known popular variety in cultivation. The heads are extremely solid, pyramidal in shape, and with very little outside foliage. We grow this strain especially for the most **CRITICAL TRUCK GROWERS AND PLANTERS**. It is a little higher in price than the regular strain, but is well worth every cent of the difference.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., \$1.00; lb., \$3.00.

All Seasons. This is generally grown on Long Island for the New York market. Heads very large, round, often nearly spherical, but usually somewhat flattened; very solid and of the best quality, keeping as well as the winter sorts. Plants very vigorous and sure heading; leaves large, smooth, with dense bloom. Remarkable for its ability to stand the hot sun and dry weather. Our trial has shown that heads which were fit for market by July 10th

were still salable September 10th, the only change being increased size and density. One of the very best sorts for general cultivation. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; 2 oz., 40c; ½ oz., 40c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Early Winningstadt.

One of the best for general use, being very hardy and sure to head, forming a hard head when most sorts fail. Those who have failed with other kinds can hope to succeed with this. It seems to suffer less from the cabbage worm than any other sort. Plant very compact, with short, thick leaves. Heads regular, conical, very hard and keep well both summer and winter.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; 2 oz., 35c; ¼ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$2.00.

Ratekin's All Head.

THE EARLIEST OF ALL LARGE CABBAGE, and considerably larger than any other early summer variety that is equally as early. The deep, flat heads are remarkably solid and the most uniform in color, form and size of any variety. The hard heads grow so free from spreading leaves that fully 1,000 more heads than usual with large cabbage can be obtained to the acre. It is really an all year round cabbage, being equally good for winter.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.



RATEKIN'S ALL HEAD.

CABBAGE—Continued.



RATEKIN'S IDEAL CABBAGE.

Premium Flat Dutch. The best "FLAT DUTCH CABBAGE" ever offered the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure heading. Nine hundred and ninety-nine out of one thousand plants make perfect salable heads, averaging 16 to 20 lbs., measuring 12 to 14 inches in diameter. Specially grown heads often reach 50 lbs. each. Interior is creamy white, compact and crisp. Unequaled for cooking or slicing, flavor especially fine. It will flourish on all soils. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; ½ lb., 90c; lb., \$1.60.

The most critical cabbage grower in the land need have no doubts about the quality of our cabbage seed.

Surehead. A popular sort for main crop; never fails to form uniformly large and solid heads, which are tender and of fine, sweet flavor. An excellent keeper and a good shipper.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00.

Large Late Drumhead. A favorite winter variety. Heads are solid and of good texture, and have very few loose leaves, allowing of planting closely in the field. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 5c; ¼ lb., 75c.

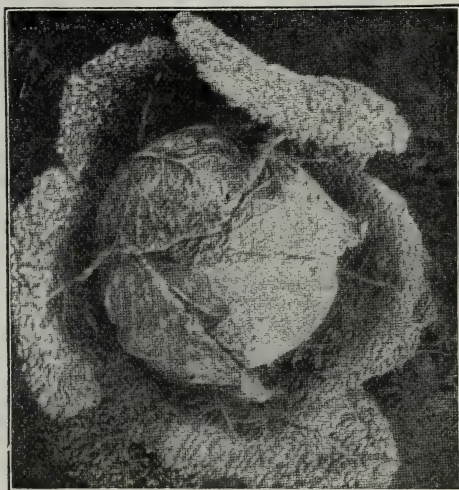


PREMIUM LATE FLAT DUTCH.

Ratekin's Ideal Cabbage. As now the most profitable cabbage ever offered to the American cabbage grower. Absolutely sure heading, 999 out of 1,000 plants make perfect, salable heads, averaging 16 to 20 lbs.; interior is creamy white, compact and crisp, unequaled for cooking or slicing; flavor especially fine. It is, without exception, the best winter keeper in the world. It will flourish on all soils; in fact, it will prove a gold mine to all cabbage growers. We want every one of our customers to give it a trial this season; the seed from these we offer you cannot be equaled. **PRICE:** Pkt., 15c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 90c; ½ lb., \$1.75; 1 lb., \$3.00, postpaid.

Danish Ball Head. This winter variety is especially desired on account of its great solidity and its keeping qualities. They weigh more than other sorts of equal size. The heads are crisp, tender and sweet and unsurpassed for boiling, slaw, sauer kraut, etc. It grows well on all soils and under most conditions, withstanding hot, dry weather, and does not rot in wet seasons. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.25.

Ratekin's Autumn King. "AUTUMN KING" is an entirely distinct variety; best keeper we have ever seen; it produces enormous, solid heads of that dark shade of green that is most desirable in a cabbage, and has such small outer leaves that it can be planted closer together than the ordinary late sorts, and can be relied on to produce a greater weight of crop per acre than any other variety. A distinct feature of the "AUTUMN KING" is the peculiarly crimped leaves, which not only adds to its appearance, but enables it to be distinguished anywhere. It is unquestionably one of the best late sorts of today. **PRICE:** Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 70c; lb., \$2.25.



RATEKIN'S DRUMHEAD SAVOY.

Ratekin's Drumhead Savoy. This is the hardest-heading and best all-round Savoy. Plants are of strong growth, having only a moderate number of outer leaves growing closely about the large solid round heads. Heads beautifully blanching and of the finest flavor.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.25.

Mammoth Rock Red. While late in maturing, this is the largest heading of all deep red varieties. In good soil the heads will average ten pounds.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c; lb., \$3.00.

Red Drumhead. (IMPROVED LARGE RED DUTCH). The well-known standard. Heads of large size, slightly rounded, seven to eight inches in diameter.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.25.

Cauliflower

CULTURE: The same as for cabbage, except that extra manure and plenty of water will pay upon Cauliflower. If the soil be dry, water frequently, and if the plants could have a heavy mulch of hay or straw, it would keep the soil moist, and they would not suffer from drouth. The early kinds should be strong enough to plant out not later than the middle of April; the late kinds may be planted out same time as cabbage.



RATEKIN'S DRY-WEATHER CAULIFLOWER.

Ratekin's Dry-Weather Cauliflower.

Especially adapted for sections subject to long dry seasons, as it will grow well and produce the finest heads in spite of lack of moisture. Heads grow to a large size, are very solid, pure white and of delicious flavor. Valuable for growing in the southern states. Pkt., 20c; ¼ oz., \$1.00.

Ratekin's Selected Dwarf Erfurt.

One of the earliest in cultivation; small-leaved dwarf, for forcing or open ground, producing very solid pure white heads of the finest quality. It grows about 15 inches high, and is a sure header. Pkt., 20c; ¼ oz., \$1.00.

Early Snowball.

An extremely early dwarf variety, producing magnificent white heads of fine quality. Well adapted to hot-bed culture. Packet, 20c; ¼ ounce, \$1.00.

CARROTS.

CULTURE: While a sandy loam, made rich by manuring the previous year, is the best for the carrot, any good land, if thoroughly and deeply worked, will produce satisfactory crops. When it is possible to do so, it is advisable to sow as early in the spring as the ground is fit to work, though good crops may in this latitude be grown from sowing as late as June 15, but success from such late planting is uncertain. For table use sow the smaller kinds as early as practicable in rows 16 to 18 inches apart. For field culture, prepare the ground thoroughly and sow in drills 18 to 24 inches apart, using from 1½ to 3 lbs. to the acre, according to the distance between the rows. Cover one-half to one inch deep and see to it that the soil is pressed firmly above the seed. As soon as the plants appear, use the cultivator or wheel hoe. Do not let the weeds get a start. Thin the smaller table sorts to 8 to 10 to a foot, and the field varieties to 3 to 6 inches apart in the row. For winter use, gather and store like beets or turnips.

Oxheart or Guerande.

We do not hesitate to call this the most valuable. It is of beautiful shape and rich orange color. It will produce roots as early as any variety and continues of the best quality all the season. It is excellent for hogs and other live stock and has yielded 1,200 bushels per acre. Cut off tops with scythe and pull roots with potato hooks.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 70c.

Danver's Half Long.

A popular, standard variety of rich, dark orange color. Very smooth and handsome. In form half way between Oxheart and the Long Orange, and wonderfully productive. Under special cultivation it has yielded from 20 to 25 tons per acre. One of the finest varieties in cultivation. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; 1 oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

Ratekin's Early Market.

Stump rooted, grows about the size of our Cincinnati Market Radish, excellent forcer; fine flavor; flesh a deep orange, fine grained. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 85c.

Chantenay Half Long.

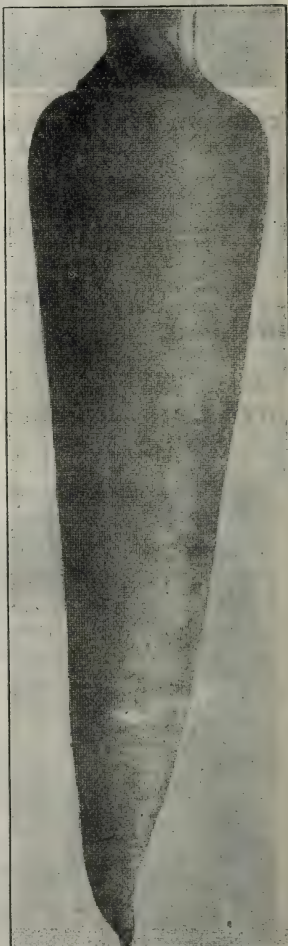
Medium early, roots smooth, bright orange and of fine quality. An excellent market sort. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.

Early Scarlet Horn.

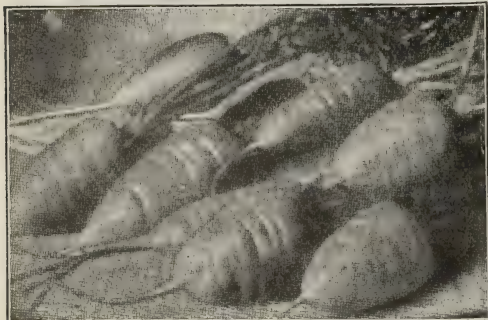
The favorite extra early variety. Very early; color orange-scarlet; fine grained and agreeable flavor. Tops small; has a short, stump-shaped root; grows well in shallow soil. The best early variety for table use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 60c.

NOTE: For stock carrots, see farm seeds.



DANVER'S HALF LONG.



RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET

Celery

CULTURE: Sow the seed in a light, rich, dry border as early as the ground can be worked in drills 8 or 10 inches apart, and cover the seeds about a quarter of an inch deep, rolling or treading them in if the ground be dry. When fairly out of the seed-leaf they may be transplanted to another bed, or they may be thinned out to 6 or 8 inches apart, and let grow until wanted to plant out in beds or trenches. The beds should be kept well weeded, and an occasional soaking with water in dry weather will do the plants good. Early in July at the North, a month or six weeks later in the Southern States, is the proper time to set the plants out in beds or trenches. Press the soil firmly against the roots. In the garden the better way is to set the plants in shallow trenches. We say shallow, for it is obviously a bad plan to remove all the good soil (as must be done in a deep trench), and put the plants in that which is poor. The plants must be set in a single row in a narrow trench; or the trench may be made into a bed wide enough to hold two, three or four rows, and in this case the plants are in a compact form to be covered for the winter where they grow. This will save much labor where there is no root-cellar for storage, as often happens to be the case. When grown in beds in this way the rows should be one foot apart, and the plants about 8 inches apart in rows. The bed should be made very rich with thoroughly decomposed manure. The plants will need to be earthed up two or three times, and in doing this care should be taken not to let the earth get into the heart of the plant. In field culture the plants are set on the surface in rows 4 feet apart when the celery is to be earthed up in the field for early use, and 2 feet apart when the plants are to be taken up and blanched in the cellar for winter use. The plants are set 6 inches apart in rows. If not grown in beds the best way to store is to dig trenches in a well-drained spot in the open ground one foot wide, and at a depth of a few inches less than the height of the celery. The plants are then lifted and set close together. When severe cold weather comes on cover gradually with leaves, hay or straw, and place boards on top. The turnip-rooted or "Knob" Celery needs no earthing up, and may be planted in rows one foot apart.

Golden Self-Blanching This is without doubt the most popular celery grown. It is a SELF-BLANCHING sort, for with a little banking up or covering even the outer ribs assume a beautiful golden yellow color, while the "heart" or vine stalks are deliciously tender, brittle and sweet.

We offer two strains of this variety, viz., RATEKIN'S "PRIVATE STOCK" and "REGULAR" stock, and for the following reason: Some years ago we procured from a celery grower in France some seed of the Golden Self Blanching variety. That year there happened to be a good deal of trouble in many parts of the country with California grown seed of the Golden Self Blanching Celery, for it did not blanch as well as usual, nor was the seed as pure.

Our customers, of course, noted the difference in the quality between the French stock and the California stock, and have always since insisted on having our French grown "PRIVATE STOCK" seed, no matter what the difference in price might be. In fact, we have on several occasions, when the particular French stock of seed we mention was very scarce and high in price sold it readily at from \$15.00 to \$25.00 a pound, when we were only asking \$3.00 a pound for the very best California seed.

Ratekin's Private Stock. (Sold only in sealed packages).

PRICE: Large pkt., 15c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.75; lb., \$6.00, postpaid.

Regular Stock. PRICE: Large Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., \$3.00, postpaid.

White Plume. Stalks, portions of the inner leaves and heart naturally white and become fit for use by simply tying up closely with soft twine. More used than any other variety by market gardeners. Our seed is of the highest quality and sure to please all. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.

Ratekin's Giant Pascal. Stalks remarkably large, thick, solid, entirely stringless, very crisp and brittle. A vigorous grower and is self-blanching, clear white. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.75.



HERBS—POT, SWEET AND MEDICINAL.

Save a corner of the garden for a few aromatic herbs. They thrive nicely along the sunny side of the garden fence, and they will require a deep and fairly rich soil. Thyme, Savory and Sage are great additions to many soups and stews. Cut them just before they bloom on a bright, sunny day, tie them in bunches and hang them up to dry.

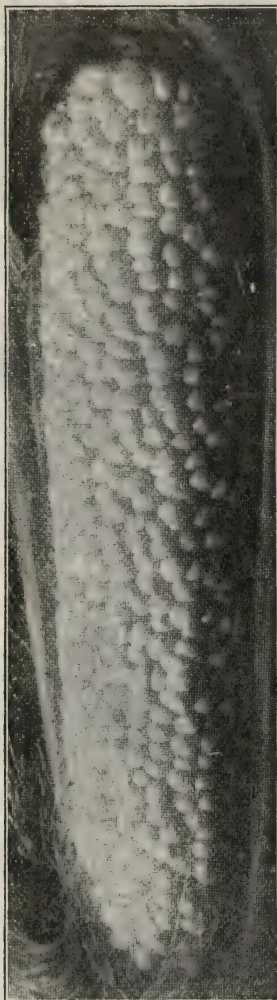
	Pkt.	Oz.
Anise, used for flavoring. A well known annual.....	\$0.05	\$0.15
Balm, very fragrant, odor similar to lemons.....	.05	.50
Basil, sweet, for soups and stews.....	.05	.40
Borage, excellent for bees, also used as a pot herb.....	.05	.20
Caraway, for flavoring purposes.....	.05	.10
Coriander, grown for its seeds.....	.05	.15
Dill, used in soups and sauces, pungent taste.....	.05	.15
Fennel, sweet, ornamental, used in confectionery.....	.05	.15
Lavender, aromatic.....	.05	.50

	Pkt.	Oz.
Horehound, used medicinally, will thrive in any soil.....	\$0.05	\$0.50
Rosemary, aromatic, fragrant odor.....	.05	.50
Rue, used for medicinal purposes.....	.05	.25
Saffron, medicinal properties.....	.05	.15
Sage, used in sausage, etc.....	.05	.20
Summer Savory, for seasoning dressing and soups.....	.05	.25
Sweet Marjoram, flavoring, not hardy at the north.....	.05	.25
Wormwood, used medicinally, strong, fragrant odor.....	.05	.50
Thyme (true broad-leaved English).....	.05	.50

Corn, Sweet or Sugar

CULTURE: Plant in hills three feet apart each way, and five or six kernels in a hill. Hoe often and draw soil up to the stem; break off side shoots. Make the ground rich with well-rotted manure. If sown thinly in drills, a greater yield from a given surface will be obtained.

Prices quoted on sweet corn by the packet, pint and quart are postpaid. Peck and bushel lots by express, customer's expense.



Mammoth White Cory.

The largest and best extra early sweet corn. The stalks are no larger than those of the "White Cob Cory," but each stalk furnishes two or more large, fine shaped ears, very symmetrical and handsome, with no opening between the rows at the base. The grain is large, broad, very white and of remarkably good quality for such an early sort. The beauty and quality of this variety give it ready sale even when the market is overstocked.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 30c; 4 qts., \$1; pk., \$1; bu., \$3.75.

Country Gentleman.

This variety is often called the "shoe peg" corn, owing to the arrangement of the crowded kernels which are long and very sweet. The ears average nine inches in length and are borne from two to five and sometimes six on each stalk. The cob is small and very closely packed from tip to butt with slender, pure white kernels of the finest quality. If you try this variety you will like it. Pkt., 5c; pt., 15c; qt., 25c; ¼ bu., \$1.00; bu., \$3.25.

Peep O' Day.

Originating in the far north, this variety is therefore extremely early in maturing. Besides this very important feature, it is a "Sweet Corn" in the true sense of the word, being remarkably sweet and tender.

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.

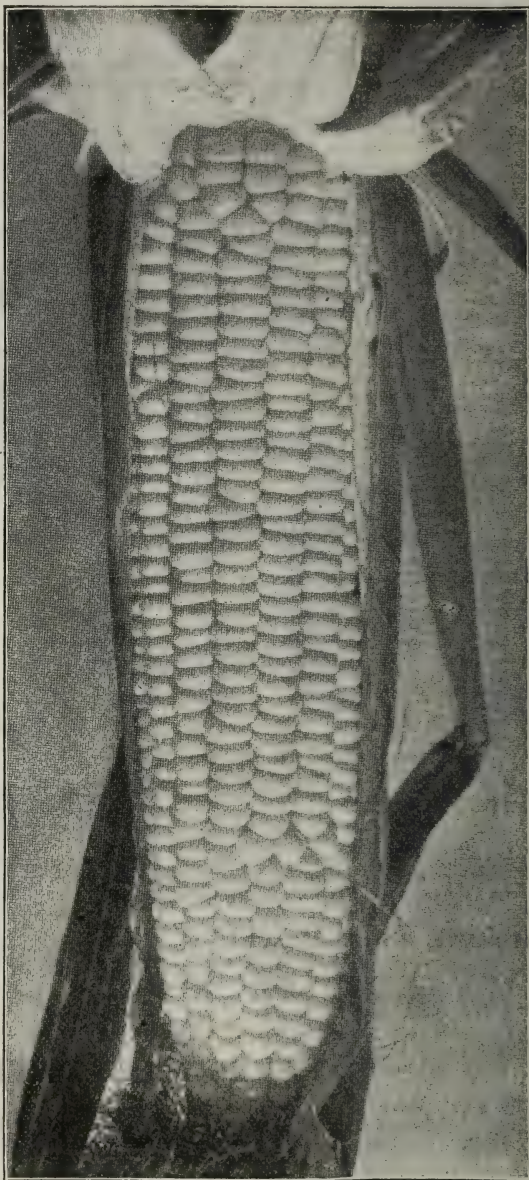
The stalks grow about three and one-half feet high, and are usually very prolific, producing from two to five ears each, which measure about five inches in length and are well filled. Pt., 20c (postpaid, 25c); qt., 30c (postpaid, 40c); 4 qts., \$1.00; peck, \$1.25.

Golden Bantam. Is becoming each year more firmly fixed in popular favor because of its extreme early character, vigorous growth and surpassingly delicious flavor. We have had hundreds of letters from customers, giving it the highest praise as the finest extra-early sweet corn they have ever grown.

Although the dry grain is entirely free from any flinty glaze it is exceptionally hard and firm, hence can be planted earlier than any other true Sweet Corn. The stalks are dwarf and sturdy in habit, growing to a height of four feet; they bear two and three good ears, which are set well above the ground. The ears, five to seven inches in length, have eight rows of broad, yellow grains, extending to the extreme rounded tip.

Many market gardeners report that they find **GOLDEN BANTAM** their most profitable variety throughout the season (from successive planting) as soon as customers become acquainted with the splendid flavor and distinct color.

GOLDEN BANTAM is as distinct in flavor from that of white varieties as in color—being almost literally "sweet as honey." The skin is so exceptionally tender that it does not need scoring or cutting across the grain. Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 30c; 4 qts., \$1.00; peck, \$1.25; bu., \$4.00.



GOLDEN BANTAM.

CORN, SWEET OR SUGAR—Continued.

Early Minnesota.

A standard early variety that has held a high place in the list of sweet corns ever since its introduction. The ears are of good size, well flavored and of the best cooking qualities. Valuable for either private or market use. **PRICE:** Pkt., 10c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 35c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 60c; pk., \$1.25; bu., \$3.50.

Crosby's Early.

For medium early use and general crop this is one of the most desirable varieties. Ears are of medium size and the cooking qualities excellent. A good cropper and profitable for family use and as a market sort. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 10c; pt., 35c. By express: $\frac{1}{2}$ pk., 60c; pk., 1.25; per bu., \$3.50.

Improved Stowell's Evergreen.

For many years Stowell's Evergreen Corn has been the most prominent main crop variety and is more largely planted than any other, being a general favorite with canners and market gardeners for late use. We have been selecting this for a number of years to improve it for family use. The ears are medium to large size, and our illustration was made by combining the picture of the lower part of an ear in fit condition for table use with part of an ear of dry seed corn. The grains are deep, exceptionally tender and remain a long time in an edible condition. The dried kernels are shriveled so much that they readily show its unusual sweetness. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; qt., 45c; peck, \$1.00; bu., \$3.25.

Pop Corn

BIG MONEY IN LITTLE THINGS.

Very often there is good money in "little things" which, because they are small people are likely to overlook. Popcorn is one of these.

Boys or girls can grow an acre or two of popcorn and dispose of the product to their neighbors or to the merchant. There is usually a demand for this article and in this way considerable money can easily be earned. Why not plow up an acre or two and turn it over to the children. It will afford them pleasure and profit.

White Rice.

A very handsome and prolific variety; ears short; kernels long, pointed and resembles rice; color white. Probably no variety of popcorn is superior to this for parching. We supply lots of four quarts and less, shelled.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c, postpaid; peck., 85c, by freight or express.

Queen's Golden.

Color a peculiar lustrous golden yellow; pops to a rich cream color; very prolific.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; pt., 20c; qt., 35c, postpaid; peck, 85c, by express.

New Red Beauty.

A valuable new rice popcorn, introduced by an extensive popcorn grower in Illinois. Ears medium to large; color bright red; deep grains and small cob; extremely early and productive. Highly recommended.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; $\frac{1}{2}$ pt., 15c; pt., 25c; qt., 40c.

CHUFAS OR EARTH ALMOND.

A nice little ground nut which is greatly liked by the children. In sweetness and flavor they resemble the coconut or almond and are considered very nice put on the table in a fruit dish with candies, and as an after dinner relish. Very prolific, a single one yielding from two to four hundred. The nuts grow under ground, very near the surface, easily reached by pigs and poultry, and destroyed by them if they have free access. Plant in April, 10 inches apart in $2\frac{1}{4}$ foot rows. Cover them lightly. If the seed is very dry soak them well before planting.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

CRESS.

Early Curled.

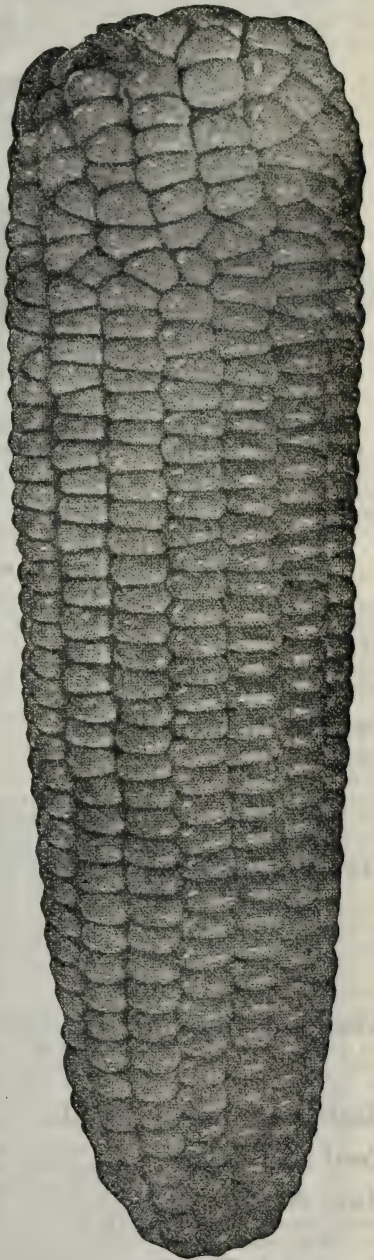
Well known salad. Sow at intervals all season. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c.

True Water

Sow seeds along the border of running water. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c.

Upland Cress.

A perennial variety; hardy, produces well; same flavor as Water Cress. Grown on high dry land; does not run to seed rapidly. Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c.



IMPROVED
STOWELL'S EVERGREEN.
The Best Main Crop
Sweet Corn.

July 24th, 1911.

The seed I received of you last spring gave good satisfaction, and I will be glad to give you a good word at any time. Thanking you for past favors I remain, yours truly,
H. A. McNAMEE, Transfer, Pa.

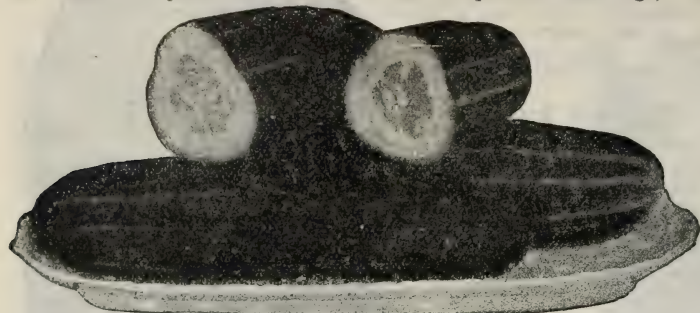
May 19th, 1911.

I received my seed. They were as fine as ever I saw and I am well pleased with them. Many thanks for your kindness and promptness in sending them to me.

ROY BADGER, De Peyster, N. Y.

Cucumbers

Cucumbers succeed best in a rich, loamy soil. For first early, sow in hot beds, in berry boxes, or in small flower pots, six weeks before they can be set out in the open ground. When danger of frost is over, transplant in hills four feet apart each way. For general crop plant in open ground in May, about 12 seeds in a hill. When danger of bugs is past, thin to four strong plants in a hill. For pickling, plant in June. Sprinkle the vines with plaster of air-slacked lime to protect from bugs, or use Slug Shot to kill the bugs.



RATEKIN'S IMPROVED WHITE SPINE.

Ratekin's Crescent Cucumber.

A new cucumber and certainly the earliest cucumber we know. One especially adapted for the hot bed or early garden; it sets quickly and produces beautiful cucumbers in the shortest possible time, and we are confident you will never be without them.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 55c; lb., \$2.00.

Japanese Climbing Cucumber.

A marvelous climbing variety introduced from Japan. The vines are strong growing and immensely productive, it being estimated that it will yield three times as much as any other variety in a given space. The fruits are of good size and of fine flavor, adapted especially for slicing and salads. Does best in dry warm summers. Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.25.

Improved Long Green. Fruits average ten to twelve inches in length. Skin a deep rich green; flesh solid, crisp and of excellent quality. This is an extra selected strain of the original type and can be depended upon to produce the true long dark green fruits, excellent alike for slicing or pickling. Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.

Davis' Perfect. By using this variety gardeners can produce out-of-door varieties that will sell in the market for hot house forcing varieties. The shape is ideal. It is almost seedless one-third of its length from the stem, and the few seeds contained in its blossom end when in eating condition are so small and tender that they are hardly noticeable. Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.

Klondike Famous. For flavor, uniform size, color, and productiveness, this Cucumber is absolutely unequalled. In addition to this it comes into bearing very early, continuing throughout the season until killed by frost. Always straight, never turning yellow. It is a hybrid of the White Spine type. The fruits average six to seven inches in length, and about two inches thick. PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; 1 lb., \$1.50.

Boston or Jersey Pickle.

Is used almost exclusively by the market gardeners near Boston for pickling. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.60.

Cool and Crisp.

A strain of the White Spine, somewhat like the Arlington, but larger. Fruit long, cylindrical, dark green. Fine for table use. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 70c.

New Astro.

A variety of the highest merit for gardeners, some claiming that they made more money from a crop of these grown early in hot beds than from any other crop, as they yield a continual daily picking and sell quickly at \$1.00 per dozen. Fruit large, perfect shape, 8 to 12 inches long. They are of the very best quality for slicing, as the flesh is white and crisp and they have very few seeds. PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., \$1.

Fordhook Pickling.

A very small, oval, prickly variety, quite distinct from all others. It is grown exclusively for pickles; is the smallest of all varieties and should always be picked when young and tender. The seed is slow to germinate, requiring usually from two to three weeks.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Chicago Improved Pickle.

This variety, which originated with a leading pickle grower near Chicago, is considered the best variety there is as it is very prolific, matures early and produces an immense number of desirable shaped pickles. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.90.

Early Cluster.

Vine vigorous, producing the bulk of the crop near the root and in clusters. Fruit short, with uniformly thick end, dark green, but paler at blossom end. A very productive sort. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.

Early Frame.

An old and popular variety of medium size straight and handsome; excellent for pickles when young. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.45.

Each packet of Cucumber seed will contain a quarter of an ounce, sufficient to plant about twenty hills. Two pounds will plant an acre.

Ratekin's Improved White Spine.

The finest flavored of all cucumbers. The vines produce enormous crops and are of unusually vigorous growth, with large thick leaves which withstand the attacks of insects. The fruit is perfectly smooth, of a dark green color and measure from 10 to 18 inches long. They are always straight, never turn yellow and are very solid. The flesh is greenish white, firm, crisp and of most delicious flavor. Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50



IMPROVED CHICAGO PICKLE.

Egg Plant

CULTURE: Sow in hotbeds very early in spring and transplant when 2 inches high into a second bed or into small pots. If this is not done, thin to 4 inches apart. Do not plant out until weather is perfectly settled and warm. Cool nights or wet weather will check them. Keep some back in frames for a second planting, in case of weather changing unexpectedly. Set out plants 3 feet by 2.

Ratekin's Black Beauty. The earliest and best of all large fruited egg plants. The large fruits are thick, of most attractive form as shown in the illustration. The skin is a rich, luscious purplish black, and on account of its rich coloring commands a higher price on the market than other varieties. The fruits set freely and develop quickly, so that the entire crop can be gathered before there is any danger of frost. This variety is destined to become very popular with truckers and gardeners.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.35.

Improved New York. Our strain of this, the leading market variety, we believe to be unsurpassed. Very large size, skin deep purple, flesh white and of excellent quality; very productive.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.25.

KALE OR BORE COLE.

(One ounce will produce about 3000 plants).

Hardier than cabbage, excellent for greens during the winter and spring; a splendid food for poultry. Cultivate like cabbage.

Ratekin's Improved Long Standing Kale.

A beautifully curled and crimped sort; vigorous habit, perfectly hardy, of a bright green color. It furnishes an abundance of greens during the fall, winter and spring. **PRICE:** Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c.

Dwarf Green Curled German.

Leaves yellowish green, very compact and beautifully curled. Sow in September for winter and spring use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

KOHL RABI.

CULTURE: Sow in light, rich soil as early as possible in drills 16 inches apart, and when established thin to six inches apart in the row. One or two plantings at intervals of ten days will give a succession until hot weather, when they fail to grow, but plantings may be made the latter part of July for fall use.

Early Purple Vienna.

A bright purple. The leaf stems are tinged with purple. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; 2 oz., 55c; ¼ lb., \$1.00; lb., \$2.75.

Early White Vienna.

Flesh white and tender; good market sort. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; 1 lb., \$1.75.

LEEK.

Belongs to the onion family and by many preferred to that vegetable. Sow the seed and care for young plants same as for onions, but they need a little more room in order to develop more fully. When the young plants are double the size of a goose quill transplant to a prepared bed in rows one foot apart and four or five inches in the row.

London Flag.

This variety is more cultivated in this country than any other. It is hardy and of good quality.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; 1 lb., \$1.00.

CURLED CHERVIL.

(An ounce will sow 100 feet of drill.)

Leaves used in soups and salads. They have a pleasant aromatic taste which is greatly liked. Cultivate like parsley.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c.

COLLARDS.

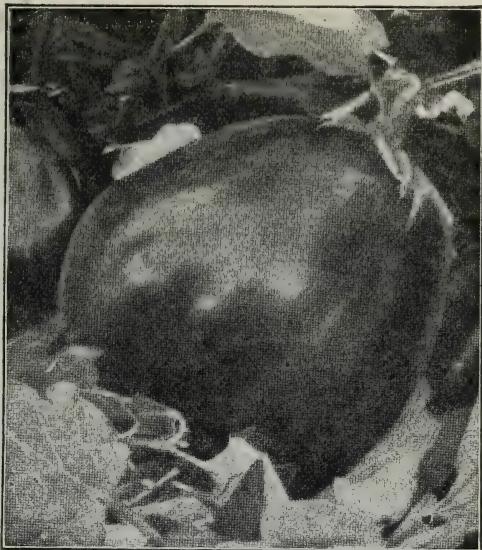
(One ounce will produce about 3,000 plants.)

Collards are largely used as "greens" in some parts of the country, especially south. They are a form of loose-headed cabbage.

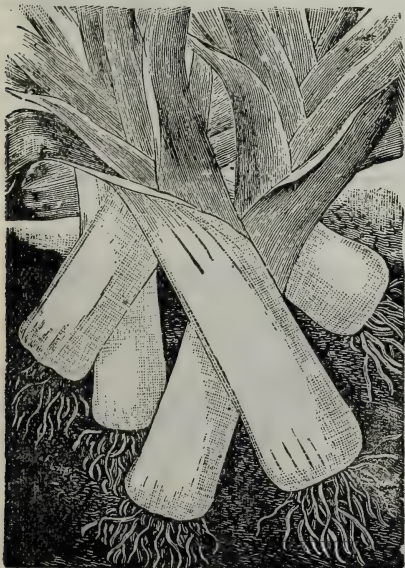
CORN SALAD.

(One ounce will sow about 200 square feet.)

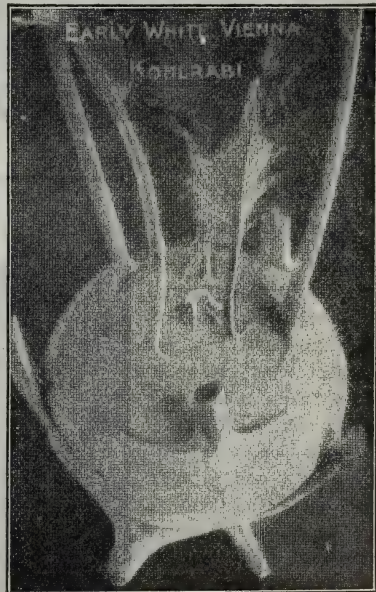
A nice winter salad. Sow in September in drills. Just before cold weather cover with straw or leaves. **Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c.**



RATEKIN'S BLACK BEAUTY.



LEEK—LONDON FLAG.



Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., 85c.

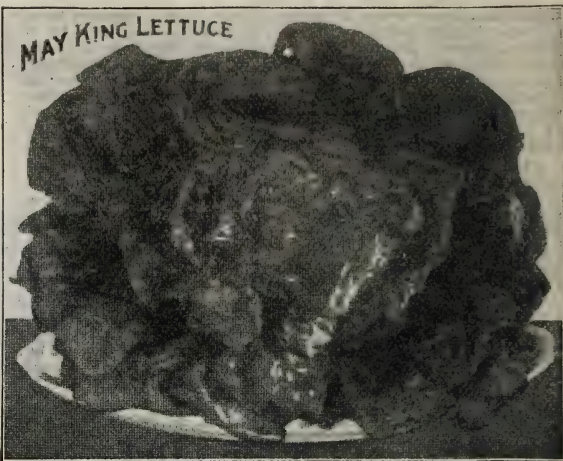
Lettuce

CULTURE: Sow the seed in hotbeds or flats during February or early March, prick the young seedlings out in flats or cold frame several inches apart each way, and, as soon as a nice, rich warm spot can be prepared in open ground in spring, transplant the well hardened plants in rows a foot apart, allowing 8 to 12 inches space between the plants in the row. For succession sow seed thinly in open ground, and thin the plants 5 or more inches apart. Sow for succession every few weeks until the fall. Some varieties do well in a cool, forcing house during winter.

Ratekin's May King Lettuce. Equal alike for forcing under glass or outdoor planting. The plants are of quick growth, practically all head and extremely handsome. From early spring plantings in the open ground they grow quickly to a diameter of six to seven inches with the broad, light green outer leaves folding closely about the round solid head. In cool weather the edges of these outer leaves are lightly tinged with brown.

The inner leaves are blanched to a rich golden yellow, and have a **SPECIALLY FINE, RICH, BUTTERY FLAVOR.** The solid round heads are so firmly folded that they can be shipped to distant markets and arrive in the best of condition. It is the very best lettuce for early planting in the spring, and again during August and September for fall use.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$1.75.



BIG BOSTON LETTUCE.

A GRAND LARGE CABBAGE LETTUCE.

For Either Midsummer or Fall Use. Big, Compact, Tender and Crisp, Creamy-White Heads.

This grand variety has proved to be most valuable, steadily gaining in popularity until it is now more extensively grown than any other kind of lettuce, either for the private table or for sale, North, South, East or West; whether grown in the open ground for summer and fall use, or in frames for spring, or forced cool in green-houses for winter use it invariably gives both grower and user the utmost satisfaction, producing during all seasons, under ordinarily favorable conditions, splendid large but-tery-yellow heads, packed with thoroughly blanched leaves, crisp, tender, sweet and white, delighting both the palate and the eye. This grand variety makes a handsome plant, with but few outside leaves, and stands long before bolting to seed. Although Big Boston is one of the best large-heading midsummer lettuces it is also peculiarly adapted for cool, open-ground culture; large areas of it may be seen in the vicinity of northern Iowa as late as November 15th; a slight covering of salt hay amply protects the plants from hard frosts, and when cut for market the leaves are as fresh, bright and untinged as if in midsummer. Thousands of acres of it are grown during the winter in Florida and other Southern States for shipping to northern markets; as far north as Minnesota it is a wonderfully popular summer lettuce. In fact, we know of no other variety that gives such general satisfaction under so many varied conditions.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.00.



BIG BOSTON.

Market Gardeners.

MARKET GARDENERS.
(Ratekin's Private Stock.)

Sold only in sealed packages. This is one of the very best of the "Butter" head lettuces. It is a very great favorite with market gardeners on the city markets, and with them holds the lead in point of popularity. This is getting to be equally true in other markets.

PRICE: Large pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.90, postpaid.



A field of May King Lettuce, showing manner of cultivation. We use the Planet entirely for all work in our trial grounds and seed farms.

LETTUCE—Continued

Ratekin's Early Prize Head.

It forms a mammoth head, and remains tender and crisp throughout the season; is prompt to head, but slow to seed; of superior flavor and very hard. Leaves of dark, reddish brown color, variegated with dark green. It is an immensely popular variety. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

Iceberg. Has an unusually solid head. The white main ribs of the leaves curve toward the center, which keeps the interior thoroughly bleached. It is quick growing, and always crisp and tender, whether propagated in early spring or in the hot days of summer. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.25, postpaid.

Early Curled Simpson. An improved variety of Curled Simpson, with large, loose head and excellent flavor. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

California Cream Butter.

A splendid variety for summer. It produces a very large and white head. It will stand extreme heat and is slow to go to seed. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 45c.

Grand Rapids. A forcing variety of superior quality and beautiful appearance strong grower, free from rot, and keeps crisp and tender without wilting when exposed for sale longer than any other forcing lettuce. It is also a desirable variety for sowing in open ground. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.20.

Black Seeded Simpson.

It is much lighter colored than preceding; it grows nearly double in size; of fine quality. One of the best for forcing or outdoor planting.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.



RATEKIN'S EARLY PRIZEHEAD.

Improved Hanson.

For general use for market and gardeners we are sure that no variety can surpass our "IMPROVED HANSON" Lettuce. Deliciously sweet, crisp and tender and absolutely free from any rank or bitter taste. Resists the summer heat extremely well. It cannot be too highly praised. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 90c.

Salamander.

An excellent spring, summer and fall variety, forming good-sized heads. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c.



Cultivating Prizetaker Onions for seed. We use the Planet., Jr., double wheel hoes entirely.

I want to write just a line to say the vegetable and garden seeds I sent to you for last spring grew to perfection. Our garden, and is was a good one, was the best we ever grew, and the beauty of it was, we had vegetables a month before anyone who planted Southern grown seed. Inclosed find list of seeds wanted this year. It is a good bill and will amount to \$25 or \$30, and I want the best discounts you can make me, but remember, I want your highest grade new crop seeds. The Peep O' Day Sweet Corn was the wonder of the world. The Red Wethersfield Onions were everyone prize takers in size. The cucumbers were the finest, earliest I ever grew. In short, the seeds I got from you were ahead of anything I have ever grown or seen in Texas. Trusting to have an early reply and quotations on my bill of seeds, I remain, yours very truly,
JOHN DEMNISON, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Ratekin's Seed House:

Dear Sirs—I tried some of your Sugar Beet, and they produced wonderful results, averaging from 5 to 28 pounds. I shall always order my garden seeds from you where I can get a fair and square deal. Yours very truly,

M. JOHNSON, Speight, Ky.

November 3rd, 1911.

April 3rd, 1911.

I have received my seeds and am well pleased with them. I expected them to come by mail and they came by express, prepaid. Thanking you for your kindness and promptness, I remain, yours respectfully,
WM. DAVID, McFall, Mo.

Muskmelons

CULTURE: Select a light, rich, sandy soil, and after all danger of frosts is over and the ground has become warm and dry plant in hills 4 to 6 feet apart each way, six to twelve seeds to a hill. When up and all danger of insects has passed pull out all but three plants. Cultivate until the vines cover the ground, and pinch the ends off the growing shoots to induce early fruiting. Ashes, lime or even dry road dust is excellent to sift over young plants when the dew is on to prevent the attacks of insects. A few hills for early use may be had by sowing in hotbeds, on pieces of sod or in pots. The seed may also be started out-of-doors under hand frames or glasses. It is quite important that proper soil be selected for growing muskmelons.

Ratekin's Early Market.

See colored plate and special offer on back cover page.

Its beautiful shape and handsome appearance are remarked upon when placed side by side on the market bench or counter with any of the popular sorts of the day. It ripens only a few days after the early Hackensack, is more prolific, more uniform, bears longer and the fruit is more solid; seldom bursts at blossom end; flavor and quality are all that can be desired. It is green fleshed, with a small seed cavity. A valuable sort for general crop.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.



RATEKIN'S EARLY MARKET. See back cover for colored plate.

THE BURRELL GEM MUSKMELON.

A RED-FLESHED ROCKYFORD.

This new red-fleshed cantaloupe is ideal for either the home garden or for market. The rather elongated fruits average six inches in length, 4½ inches through and weighs about two pounds each. The flesh of red-orange is very thick, fine grained and deliciously rich and spicy in flavor. **SEED CAVITY REMARKABLY SMALL;** the rind is thin, but tough. Color, green, closely interlaced with gray netting; ribs well arched. The vines are healthy, vigorous and very productive.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., \$1.50.

Jenny Lind. This is the earliest of the green fleshed sorts and one of the sweetest. It is round or flattened. In size it is small, being from three to five inches in diameter—a very convenient size for serving in halves. It is more largely grown in the great melon producing state of New Jersey than any other sort, and is used in enormous quantities in the eastern cities and at the seashore resorts. The vines are very prolific and the culture profitable. PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00, postpaid.

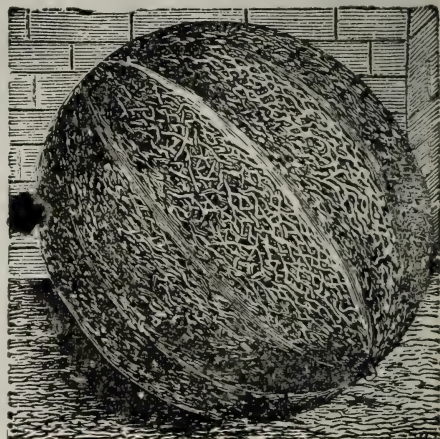


**BURRELL GEM.
A RED FLESHED ROCKYFORD.**

Paul Rose, or Petoskey.

Combines all the good qualities of the Netted Gem and Osage, the varieties from which it originated, possessing the sweetness of the latter, with the finely netted appearance of the Gem. Fruit oval, about five inches in diameter, shape and general appearance similar to the Netted Gem; of a light green or faint golden hue when fully ripe. Firm flesh, a rich orange like the Osage, but even sweeter and higher flavored; ripens close down to the rind, with small seed cavity; the most uniformly good of any muskmelon grown. Best shipper, just the size for hotel and table use. Really has no equal as a market melon for professional growers, and one of the very best sorts for the home garden. An exceptionally pure and fine stock.

PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.15, postpaid.



PAUL ROSE OR PETOSKEY.

MUSKMELONS—Continued

ROCKY FORD MUSKMELON.

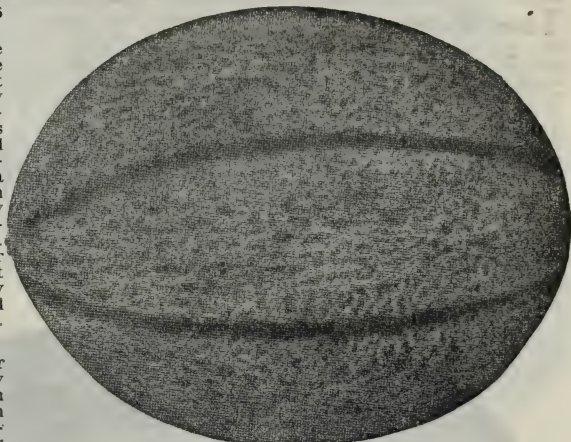
SWEET AND LUSCIOUS—WORLD-FAMOUS FOR ITS CAPTIVATING FLAVOR.

ROCKY FORD has proven to be a most valuable muskmelon; its size, shape and quality exactly suit the epicure. It somewhat resembles the old Netted Gem, but is more oval in shape. The vines are exceedingly healthy and vigorous, bearing an enormous quantity of fruits during the entire season. It is safe to say that no melon has ever come into the market which has sold so readily and at such high prices as the Rocky Ford, often to the exclusion of other varieties. The color of the skin is of a rich, greenish-gold; the netting is prominent and light in color; appearance very attractive. The flesh is very deep, ripening clear to the rind, very solid, yet thoroughly melting, and it has an exceedingly small seed cavity. **IT IS VERY SWEET AND LUSCIOUS IN FLAVOR.** Our seed was specially grown for us by a careful grower at Rocky Ford, and is the best type of the genuine Rocky Ford Muskmelon. It has been used in many sections and is pronounced by melon growers a very superior strain.

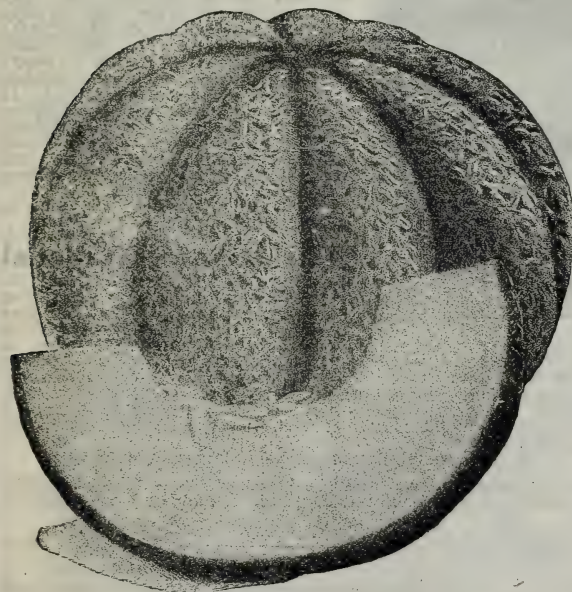
PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.25.

Extra Early Hackensack.

We offer under this name a very distinct stock, different and much superior to that often sold as Extra Early Hackensack. The fruit is medium sized, nearly round, with deep ribs and very coarse netting. The flesh is green, a little coarse, but very juicy and sweet. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.



EMERALD GEM.



RATEKIN'S ROCKYFORD.

Small Green Nutmeg.

Fruit of medium size, slightly ribbed, globular: Skin dark green, becoming yellow when over-ripe and nearly covered with broad, shallow netting. Flesh thick, a little coarse, but of fine flavor. This variety is in universal demand for both home and market use. It is the size best suited for hotel and restaurant use. Our stock is carefully grown and selected and will be found first-class in every particular. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Emerald Gem.

One of the most delicious little melons that we have ever eaten. The flesh is thick, of a suffused salmon color, almost red, and ripens thoroughly to the extreme thin green rind. It is peculiarly crystalline in appearance, juicy and rich. The flavor is sweet and luscious beyond description. Rather small for marketing, but very nice for home use. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

Improved Canteloupe.

A finely improved variety, often weighing from 15 to 20 pounds. The flesh is thick, light in color and of fine quality. Quite early and a splendid keeper. Include this variety in your order. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

Osage Melon or Miller's Cream.

One of the best melons on the market for family use, and also greatly liked by gardeners. The skin is thin, of dark green color and slightly netted. The flesh is salmon color, remarkably sweet and spicy in flavor, extremely thick and delicious to the rind; the seed cavity is very small. It is seldom that one of poor quality is found. The whole crop is very even and extra heavy, owing to the thickness of the meat. All lovers of fine melons should try the Osage. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., 90c.

Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.

April 11th, 1911.
The seeds ordered from you received today in good condition. I wish to thank you for your promptness and also for the splendid quality of the goods sent. Respectfully yours,
W. C. BELCHER, Advance, Ark.

April 2, 1911.
I received the seeds in good condition today; am well pleased. Yours,
JOSEPH A STICKNEY, Santaquin, Utah.

April 3, 1911.
Received seeds O. K., which were sent in correction of my order. Many thanks for your prompt and satisfactory attention of mistake. Yours truly,
GEO. R. MORRIS, Manqua, Mo.

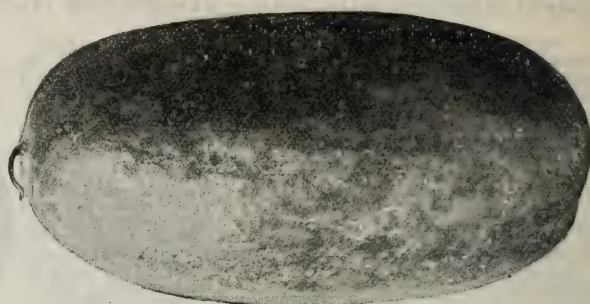
March 31st, 1911.
The seeds ordered arrived safely and were all O. K. I thank you for your kind attention and quick shipment of my small order. Yours truly,
DAVID HULL, Caledonia, Mo.

Watermelons—The Best New Standard Varieties

ONE OUNCE FOR THIRTY HILLS; FOUR TO FIVE POUNDS FOR AN ACRE.

CULTURE: See directions given under Muskmelon. Watermelons, however, are slightly less subject to "bug" depredations and disease attacks than muskmelons. At the same time they are more easily hurt by strong spray mixtures, and caution in the use of such mixtures is advisable.

Tom Watson. The best shipping melon grown. A large, oblong melon, the skin of which is dark green, with thick netting on the entire surface. This melon is absolutely new and quite distinct from all other varieties. It averages 18 to 24 inches long and 10 to 12 inches in diameter, and weight 50 to 60 pounds. The rind is thin but tough and flesh a bright attractive red color, **CRISP, SWEET AND DELICIOUS.** The heart is large, with no core. Seeds are brown, tipped with white. The appearance and quality of this melon makes it one of the very best of shipping varieties. Tom Watson will prove the most profitable of all melons to truckers and gardeners. Our seed stock was grown under contract by one of the very best melon growers in the country, he having obtained his seed direct from the originator in Georgia. **PRICE:** Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.50.



Ratekin's Champion.

A cross between Kolb's Gem and Sweet Heart. All that could be said of **KOLB'S GEM** as to good shipping qualities can be truthfully stated in a higher degree of **RATEKIN'S CHAMPION**. All the praise of high quality bestowed on the Sweet Heart can be repeated of our new melon, but its prominent point of merit is its extreme size. **NO MELON EVER YET PRODUCED ANYTHING LIKE SO UNIFORMLY LARGE FRUIT, NOR APPROACHING IT IN PRODUCTIVENESS.** Melons weighing from 40 to 60 lbs. are frequent. It is the most prolific watermelon ever grown. Its color is a rich, dark green. Of uniform, symmetrical shape, roundish to bluntly oval, and this similarity of shape running through the whole field.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.25.

Ratekin's New National Melon.

The reason that this fine new watermelon received the name of National was because of its proven ability to flourish almost anywhere, even in

districts where watermelons are not usually grown. The National is a watermelon of medium to large size and of high table quality. It is of southern origin, but thrives well in the north. In shape it is oblong. The outside color is pale, with dark markings, resembling Seminole, but with markings more distinct. The flesh is brilliant red in color and remarkably solid; so solid, in fact, that a 40-lb. National Watermelon does not appear to be much larger than a Seminole weighing only 25 lbs. The flavor is delicious, and the flesh is entirely stringless. The rind, though thin, is very tough, insuring good shipping qualities.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.10. Write for special prices on 4-lb. lots and over.

Sweet Heart Melon.

This melon is early, large, handsome, heavy and productive. Shape is oval; color, mottled light to very dark green. Flesh bright red, solid, tender and very sweet.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

March 15th, 1911.

I received the seeds ordered in fine shape and am well pleased with them. Thanks for your promptness. Yours truly,

J. V. DAVIDSON, Wartrace, Tenn.

April 29th, 1911.

Received the seeds. They all look very nice. Will report their conduct next fall. Thanks for your trouble and promptness. Yours very truly,

L. W. SEIGWORTH, Parker's Landing, Pa.

April 10th, 1911.

The seeds came in good shape, and I think they are as nice and clean seeds as I ever saw. Respectfully,

S. C. RECTOR, Savannah, Wyo.

April 26th, 1911.

I received the seeds on the 24th, and they are all right. Much obliged for your promptness.

F. C. COOK, Montfort, Wis.

April 15th, 1911.

I received my seeds on the 15th, and am very well pleased with them. Yours very truly,

A. C. DEINERT, Emerald, Neb.

March 31, 1911.

Seeds received all O. K. and were in splendid condition. Many thanks for promptness.

MRS. J. S. YUEILL, Cato, Ark.

May 15th, 1911.

Seeds received May 1st all in good condition. Everything satisfactory. Yours,

ROY BADGER, De Peyster, N. Y.

March 27th, 1911.

Received seeds all right; was very much pleased. Thank you very much. Yours truly,

A. B. LANGDON, Keeney, Mo.

WATERMELONS—Continued.

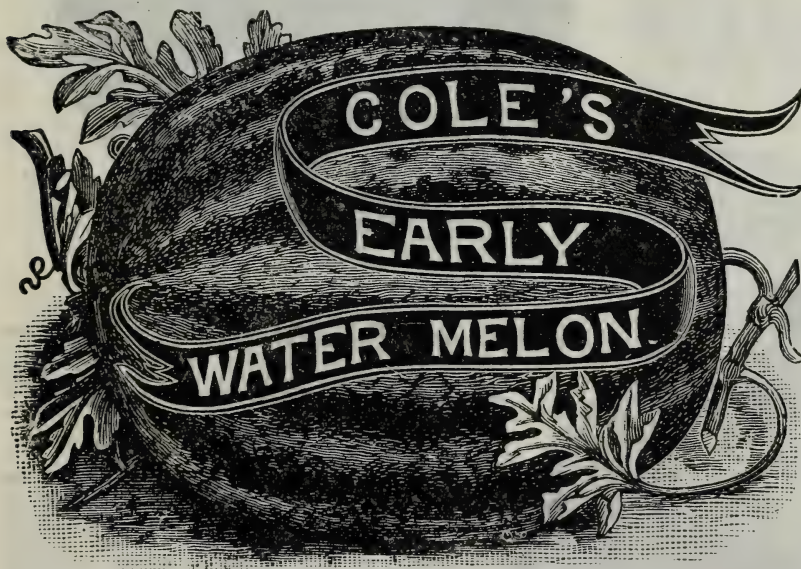
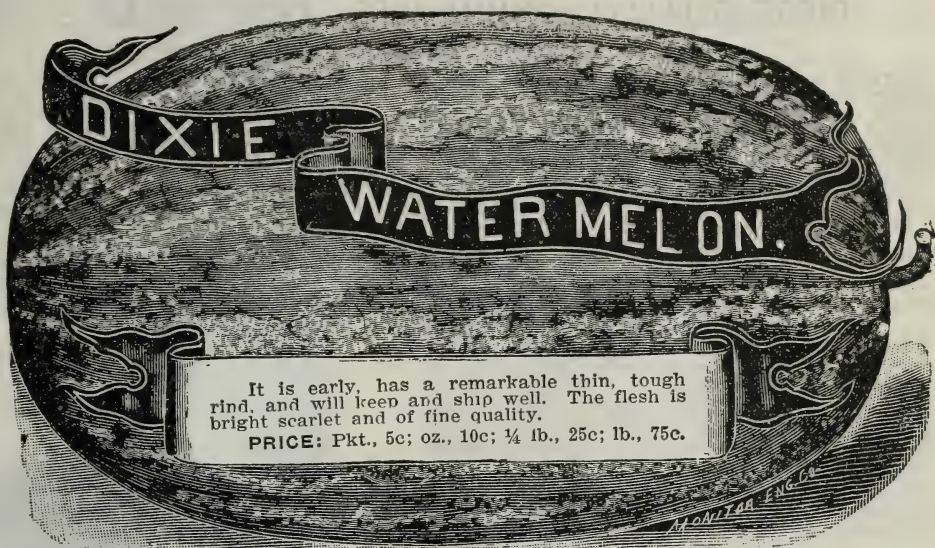
M'Iver Wonderful Sugar.

A large, oblong melon of handsome appearance; skin shows broad bands of white, with narrower ones of green. Its soft, pink flesh is crisp, juicy, very sweet and solid to the center. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Kleckley's Sweet.

Large oblong melon. The skin is dark green, flesh bright scarlet, the rind only about one-half inch in thickness. The scarlet flesh is sweet and sugary and is of such texture that it leaves no strings of pulp whatever in eating.

The melon is better for home use than for shipping, and we believe it is the **BEST TABLE MELON** for home consumption in the world. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00; 5 lbs., by express, \$2.50.



Cole's Early. Decidedly the finest early variety for the private garden, but is too brittle for long shipments. It is very early and will mature further north than other sorts. Of medium size, very productive, continuing to bear throughout the season. Flesh of bright red color, of granulated, sparkling appearance. In flavor it is lusciously sweet and refreshing. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Apple Pie Grows uniformly round and smooth, striped and marbled with light green. Flesh white and solid, seeds red. It should be borne in mind that this variety is not for eating in the raw state, but for preserves, pickles, etc. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 1c; 2 oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Mixed Watermelons.

Twelve varieties of the finest watermelons, the largest, earliest, sweetest; grown separately and seed carefully mixed by us. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

STANDARD LIST

We can supply any of the following varieties strictly first class seed, true to name; per pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

CUBAN QUEEN. Large striped, very productive.
BLACK DIAMOND. One of the largest and best.
PEERLESS OR ICE CREAM. One of the best for the home or local markets.
TRIUMPH. A popular southern variety.
MOUNTAIN SWEET. The old standard, fine.
PHINNEY'S EARLY. Early medium size.
KOLB'S GEM. One of the best shippers.
SEMINOLE. Very large, productive, and of finest quality.

DARK ICING OR GREEN MOUNTAIN. Fruit round, medium size, dark green, rich, juicy and delicious.

LIGHT ICING. Similar to above, but dark variety.

PRIDE OF GEORGIA. Splendid for home use, but not a good shipper.

GEORGIA RATTLESNAKE. Skin green, mottled and striped, good shipper.

MONTE CRISTO. A northern strain of Kleckley. Very fine.

Ratekin's Reliable Onion Seed

FIRST QUALITY ONION SEED—OUR GREAT SPECIALTY.

WE WOULD LIKE TO SELL YOU YOUR ONION SEED

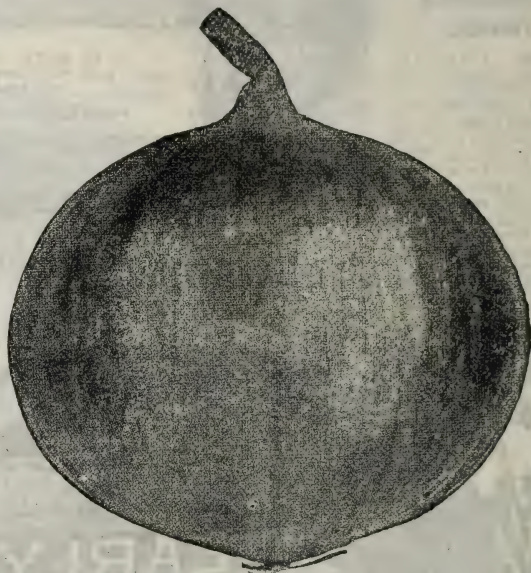
There is no crop which depends more upon the quality of the seed than does the Onion crop. **GOOD ONION SEED** is of the most vital importance if you expect satisfactory results. The seed we offer we know is not surpassed anywhere, and is always thoroughly tested for vitality before it is sent to customers, so that success is certain where soil and season are favorable and is equally sure to produce an abundance of well-shaped Onions, free from scallions or stiff-necks. Our one aim has always been, and is, to sell at reasonable prices, and as low as any reliable firm in the American seed trade who have an honest reputation for offering only strictly first class onion seed to their customers.

CULTURE: Onions do best on a rich loam, previously cultivated for two years. Stiff clay and light sand are equally unfavorable. The land should be highly fertilized with well rotted manure, complete fertilizers, etc. Fresh stable manure has a tendency to produce soft onions. Drill in four to five lbs. of seed per acre, one-half inch deep. If sets are wanted use 60 to 80 lbs. of seed per acre. Six to ten bushels of sets will plant an acre. Fine, marketable size onions (according to variety planted) are easily produced the first year from early spring sown seed. Culture should be frequent though shallow. The same ground may be used for onions season after season if well fertilized annually. Bone meal is an excellent fertilizer. Winter storage demands dryness and protection from sudden changes. Onions should never be handled while frozen.

The Ailsa Craig. A very large, yellow fleshed variety of onion that is very popular with English gardeners. It resembles the "Prizetaker," but will grow much larger and more globular in form. The skin has an attractive straw color, flesh is mild, and the onions keep remarkably well for such large size. It will prove valuable to those who grow onions for exhibition purposes, as it is the most showy and attractive onion that can be grown. It is also valuable for truckers who grow for a critical market, and one of the best for the home garden. For producing the largest and best onions, it is best to sow seed in the hotbed early in the spring and transplant when weather conditions will permit. Per pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., \$1.00; lb., \$3.00.

Yellow Globe Danvers. A very handsome, round or globe shape variety of large size, with thin, yellow skin, white flesh, fine grained, mild, very firm and the best of keepers. It ripens early, sells readily at the highest prices in our markets. This is one of the best cropping varieties in existence, has yielded 1,000 bu. per acre; one of our customers states that his crop averaged over 800 bu. per acre for nine years. Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.40; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$5.00.

Ratekin's Red Globe. This early strain of the well known Southport or large "Red Globe" onion is a most valuable improvement. The handsome shape, color and keeping qualities of this onion make it one of the very best varieties which are always in demand toward spring. Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.60; 4 lbs., not prepaid, \$6.00.

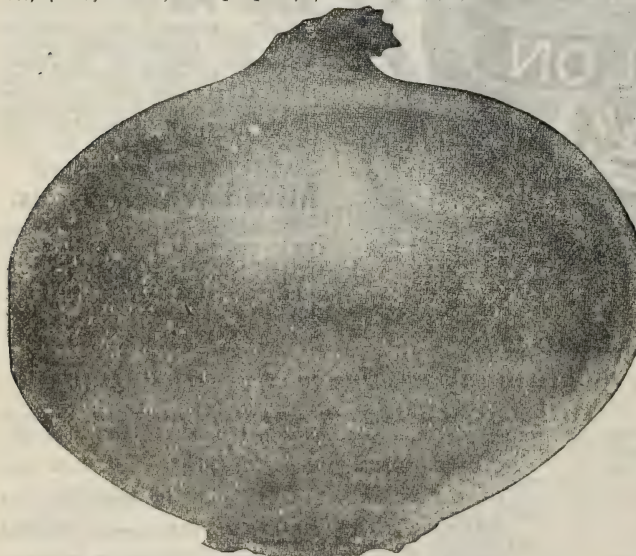


AILSA CRAIG.

Large White Globe. The handsomest market variety in existence, making beautiful, clean, pure silvery white bulbs of large, even size; globe shape, mild and pleasant flavor and outsells every other variety. **PRICE:** Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00; 4 lbs., \$7.00, postpaid.

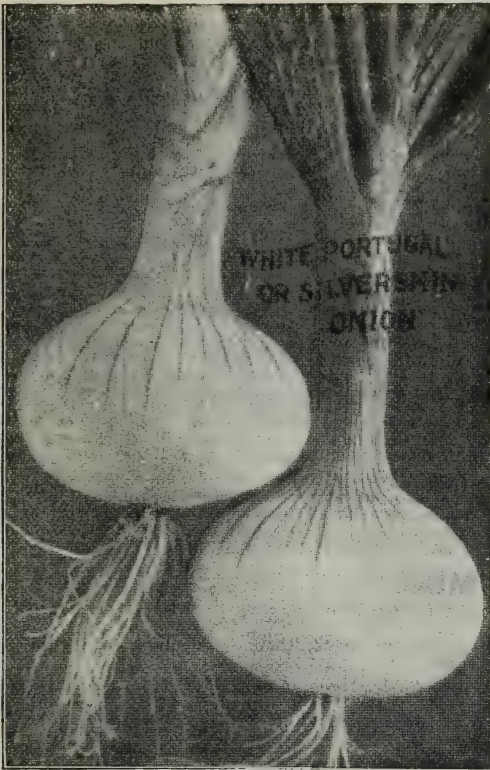
Mammoth Prize Taker. This is the large, beautiful Spanish variety, sold in the fruit stores and markets of all large cities. Enormous size, 14 to 16 inches in circumference. Outside skin is rich yellow, while the flesh is white, sweet and tender. They bottom well, are free from stiff-necks, and have produced more bushels of marketable onions to the acre than any other variety in America. In market they attract attention, sell readily at advanced prices. True American grown seed. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.50.

Mammoth Silver King. Attractive form, flattened, but thick through. Single bulbs often attain weights of from 2½ to 4 pounds each. The skin and flesh are white and of a particularly mild and pleasant flavor, matures early and is of uniformly large size and perfect form and will bring a large price in market. **Price:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.75.



THE MAMMOTH PRIZE TAKER.

ONIONS—Continued.



White Portugal or Silver Skin Onion.

The leading White Flat Onion. For the family garden it is one of the best. The bulbs attain a good size, ripening evenly; the color is a beautiful silvery-white when cured under cover. Its shape is flat, but symmetrical. For a white variety it is not only early, but a good keeper. For slicing and boiling it is one of the best, the flesh being mild and tender. It is largely grown for pickles when sown three or four times as thick as usual and is also extensively sown for sets. (See cut). PRICE: 10c pkt.; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.00.

Australian Brown Onion. Extra early, long keeping; the most valuable variety introduced in a generation. The Australian Brown Onion is of medium size, wonderfully hard and solid, and most attractive for market, both as to form and appearance. They are extremely early in ripening and never make stiff-necks or scullions. From its firmness and hardness it will keep in good condition longer than any other onion known. The color of the skin is a clear amber-brown. So widely contrasted from any other onion is this color that it will be noticed on market, and when once bought purchasers will most likely call again for those "beautiful brown onions." PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.50.

White Bermuda. A favorite in the south. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., \$2.75.

New White Queen. Small; noted for extreme earliness and mildness of flavor; much used for pickling. Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$2.00.

Extra Early Batletta. This is a new distinct variety; the very earliest onion in cultivation. It is fully two weeks earlier than the Early White Queen, which

heretofore has been the earliest variety on the market. They are pure paper white color, very mild and delicate in flavor, 1½ inches in diameter and ¾ of an inch in thickness. For table use and pickling it is most valuable.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.

Chives.

Perfectly hardy little perennials of the onion tribe, and are grown for their tops, which are used wherever the flavor of onion is required. Plant in small clumps in garden; they will grow readily. The tops appear very early in spring and can be shorn throughout the season; indispensable for use in omelets.

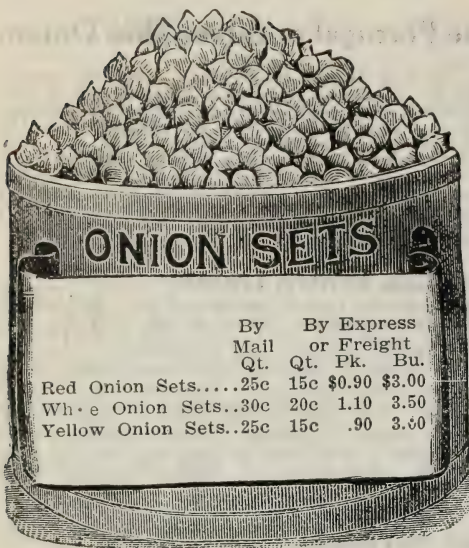
Roots per bunch, 15c; 3 for 35c; doz., \$1.00.



For general purposes, the country over, no variety is more largely grown. The largest, most uniform, heaviest yielder and the best keeper of all the red onions. This is a standard red variety. Large size; skin deep purplish red; form round, somewhat flattened; flesh purplish-white. We recommend it as a general cropper and a variety that will do well anywhere that large onions can be grown. One of the best keepers. Yields enormous crops. Our stock of Large Red Wethersfield Onion Seed is personally selected by us and excelled by none.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.25.

ONION SETS.



The planting of Onion Sets is increasing rapidly year after year. They are used for several purposes. The Bottom Onion Sets produce a large onion ready for market from four to six weeks earlier than can be had by sowing the seed and the product of the set is the same as that obtained by sowing seed. This enables the grower to sell his entire crop earlier in the season, at which time prices usually are higher than when the bulk of the crop reaches market. It also permits the sowing of another crop on the land the same year. Bottom Sets also produce good green onions on most any soil in half the time it takes to raise them from seed.

Bottom Onion Sets are produced by sowing seed very thickly and they are harvested before they have reached full development. Our sets are small, one inch or less in diameter, dry and unsprouted.

We grow our own Onion Sets, which enables us to produce hard, sound, clean sets of the best quality. As they are used to obtain onions earlier than they can be had from seed, it follows, therefore, that northern grown sets will produce onions earlier than southern grown sets. We clean them thoroughly so as to be free from trash and rubbish, which is so often included with many of the onion sets ordinarily sold. In the spring of the year our sets are hard and sound, while at that time southern sets are very often so dried and shriveled and so lifeless that they either grow slowly or fail entirely to make a bulb. We do not think it too much to say that a bushel of our sets will give almost twice the number of onions as will a bushel of ordinary sets.

ABOUT PRICES. As the value of Onion Sets fluctuates greatly, our prices are subject to market changes. The prices named in this catalog are based upon values existing at the time of publication, January 1st. If you wish to purchase round lots, be sure to write us for lowest market values.

OKRA OR GUMBO.

In high esteem for soups and stews. A fashionable southern vegetable of easy growth at the north. An annual. The pods are used when young and tender.

CULTURE: Sow in May and June, after the ground is warm, in drills, three feet apart and thin to 10 inches apart in the rows. An ounce of seed to 100 feet of row.

Ratekin's Improved Giant Green Pod.

podded sorts. Large, handsome, green pods. Fine quality, very productive, four to five feet tall.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 75c.

A new Okra esteemed by canners and market gardeners. It is a great improvement on the old green.

PEPPERS.

One Ounce Will Produce About 1,800 Plants.

The culture of Pepper is the same as for Egg Plant; the plants need quite as much heat to perfect them, though they mature sooner and may be sown a little later. Guano, hen dung, or any other bird manure, hoed into the surface soil when the plants are about 6 inches high, will wonderfully increase the product and also improve the quality of the fruit.

Mammoth Ruby King Pepper.

One of the most popular large fruiting varieties, a prolific bearer of extra large ruby red fruits, 5 to 6 inches long by 3 to 4 inches in diameter; flesh exceedingly thick, sweet and so mild that it is often eaten sliced as salad, splendid for stuffing, etc. It is a very attractive variety and a valuable acquisition. Our strain selected and is absolutely pure.

Per pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 80c; lb., \$2.75.

Sweet Mountain.

Plants very productive, growing upright, with moderately large leaves. Fruit very large, long, often 8 inches or more in length by 2 in diameter, very smooth and handsome, being when unripe, of a bright deep green color, entirely free from any purple tinge, and when matured of a rich red. Flesh very thick, sweet and mild flavored. Well suited to use as a stuffed pickle. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c.

Large Bell or Bull Nose.

Our stock of this well known variety, which is sometimes called Sweet Mountain, is a great improvement on the best stock obtainable only a few years ago. Plant vigorous, compact, very productive, ripening its crop uniformly and early. It is one of the most popular and desirable sorts. Fruit large, cylindrical, with thick, mild flesh; quality for use in salads and pickles, color bright red when ripe. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 50c.

Chinese Giant.

PRICE: Per pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.50.

Red Cayenne.

PRICE: Per pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 90c.

Coral Gem Bouquet.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; ounce, 50c.

Red Chili.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c.



MAMMOTH RUBY KING PEPPER.

Parsley



RATEKIN'S MOSS CURLED.

Sow in March, thinly in drills 1 foot apart and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep. Soak seed in warm water a few hours before sowing. For winter use protect in a glass frame or light cellar. Very useful for flavoring soups and stews and for garnishing. The green leaves are used for flavoring, or they may be dried crisp, rubbed to a powder and kept in bottles until needed.

Hamburg. A turnip rooted variety, used for flavoring soups, etc. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 65c.

Ratekin's Moss Curled Parsley.

A handsome variety of quick, robust growth, forming compact, ornamental plants, densely furnished with strong stemmed graceful leaves, finely cut, most beautifully curled, and of that brilliant emerald green color so highly attractive when used for garnishing. The flavor of the leaves is also unusually rich and aromatic, rendering this variety of special value where used for flavoring in sauces, dressing, etc., either when fresh or dried. Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Parsnips

ONE OUNCE WILL SOW 200 FEET OF DRILL; FIVE POUNDS TO AN ACRE.

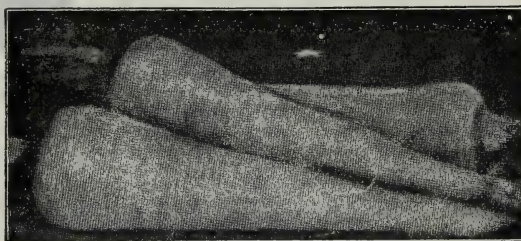
Sow early in spring in good rich soil, which has been plowed deep, in drills 15 inches apart, covering half an inch. Thin to 5 or 6 inches apart in rows. They are improved by frost.

RATEKIN'S IMPROVED HOLLOW CROWN

This is a highly improved type, producing uniformly large and handsome roots of stocky form, heavy at the shoulder, well rounded, gradually tapering to the base, so that they are easily dug, and if grown in properly pulverized soil, the roots will be smooth and free from wrinkles and side roots. The flesh is white, of fine texture, free from core and stringiness, and especially fine flavored, cooking tender, sweet and rich, rendering it one of the finest of table vegetables for winter use. The roots may remain in the ground all winter, being hardy, or some may be dug late in the fall and stored in sand or soil, so that they can be gotten at easily when the ground is frozen. Frost improves their quality. This parsnip is the heaviest cropper of all and we recommend it for both garden and field culture. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 65c.

Improved or Table Guernsey.

A greatly improved and wonderfully fine strain of the Guernsey Hollow Crown Parsnip. The roots do not grow as long as the Hollow Crown, but are of greater diameter and more easily gathered. A very heavy cropper; the roots are smooth, with a deep hollow crown and a small top. The flesh is fine grained and sweet and of excellent quality; cooks evenly all the way through to the center which is fine soft and even quality as outside portions. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 65c.



IMPROVED OR TABLE GEURNEY.

I have bought seeds from you the last two years and am now sending for some early seed to sow in hot beds. Will order more seed later on, as I think there is none better than Ratekin's. I shall send to you for all seeds as they always prove true to name. I am a lover of flowers and I intend to have a Ratekin flower garden this summer. I sent one of your catalogues to a brother of mine and he wrote me that he had purchased all of his seeds from you and found them all that you claimed them to be.

JOHN BELCHER, Troy, Ill., Jan. 26th, 1911.

I have tried your seeds for the last four years and they are the best I ever had. I raised the finest radishes I ever saw and everything ordered from you did fine. I have tried lots of other seeds, but yours are the best.

THOS. K. HARRIS, Warner, Okla., Feb. 18, 1911.

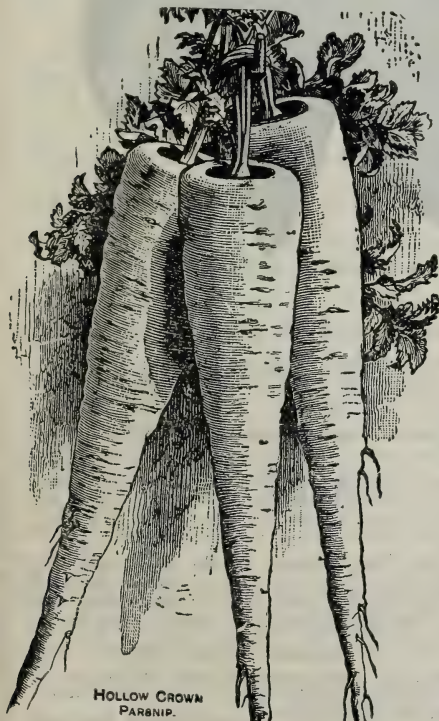
I received my garden seeds today. Everything I sent for came all right and I am well pleased. Your seeds have always given me the best satisfaction.

LEE BECKNER, Hazelton, Ind., Mar. 6th, 1911.

Enclosed find order for garden seeds. I have always had the best of luck when using Ratekin's seeds and will send you a larger order later. JOHN W. COLEMAN, Freeman, Mo., Mar. 14, 1911.

Your seeds are the best I ever planted. No danger in buying Ratekin's seeds, for they will grow to perfection. I plant Ratekin's seeds and enjoy a bountiful crop. Yours very truly,

W. F. PARKER, Edgar, Ark.



HOLLOW CROWN
PARSNIP.

Garden Peas

One Quart Will Plant About 100 Feet of Drill. One and One-half to Two Bushels for An Acre.

CULTURE: Peas of extra early, smooth class are the very first thing to be planted in the garden in spring. The wrinkled sorts follow a little later, as they are not quite so hardy. Tall late varieties need brush or other support. By selecting sorts that do not grow much over four feet high, the necessity of providing brush may be avoided. Judicious selection of varieties and planting frequently for succession will give us a full supply of the choicest green peas almost during the entire season, with the possible exception of the hottest part of the summer. Open furrows three or four inches deep and three feet apart; scatter the seed peas into them and cover with hoe or plow. Cultivate like corn or beans. The late tall sorts may be planted in double rows and brush stuck in between for support. All garden peas, however, require good, strong and fertile land. Heavy yields cannot be obtained on poor soil.

NOTE: While our supply of peas is limited, owing to unfavorable growing conditions, yet we can supply the very best of quality. Owing to crop shortage, we are unable to quote prices on bushel lots in this catalog, consequently we would advise that all of our customers who intend planting quantities write us for lowest quotations before placing their orders.

Prices on packets, pints and quarts are post-paid. If ordered by freight or express, at sender's expense, deduct 7c per pint, 15c per quart, from prices given.

Ratekin's New Wonder. A round seeded hard shelled pea that can be sown when frost is barely out of the ground, before it is safe to sow wrinkled sorts. This, with its quickness of growth and maturity, renders it the earliest pea on record.

Ratekin's New Wonder is unequalled for general excellence, size of pod and regularity of ripening. It grows 2½ feet high and produces pods of good size, which are well filled with round smooth peas of splendid flavor. It is a very heavy yielder, and in this last feature, with its extreme earliness, lies its great value to market gardeners and truckers. At the same time it is one of the best for private garden.

Pkt., 10c; ½ pint., 20c; quart, 50c; by express, peck, \$2.25.

Iowa Challenge Pea. An extra early variety of superior merit, which is a favorite with Shenandoah market gardeners.

For the market gardener it has no superior. It is not only extremely early and prolific, but it is of good flavor. All the good qualities of the Extra Early are most nearly brought to perfection in the Challenge. Vines 18 inches.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ peck, \$1.25; peck, \$2.00

Alaska. Height two feet, pods rather small, dark green color, well filled, the earliest pea known, being two days earlier than the Rural New Yorker, and 70 per cent of the pods can be gathered at the first picking.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

American Wonder. The most popular extra-early variety for the family garden; being very sweet, it cannot be planted quite as early as the above, as it will not stand as much cold, wet weather, but is far superior to the extra early smooth sorts in flavor and table qualities and is quite productive. Of dwarf and robust habit, growing about 10 inches high, and produces a profusion of good sized, well filled pods, fairly packed with the finest flavored peas; on good soil each vine will average 12 pods and each pod six peas. The vines grow from 8 to 12 inches high.

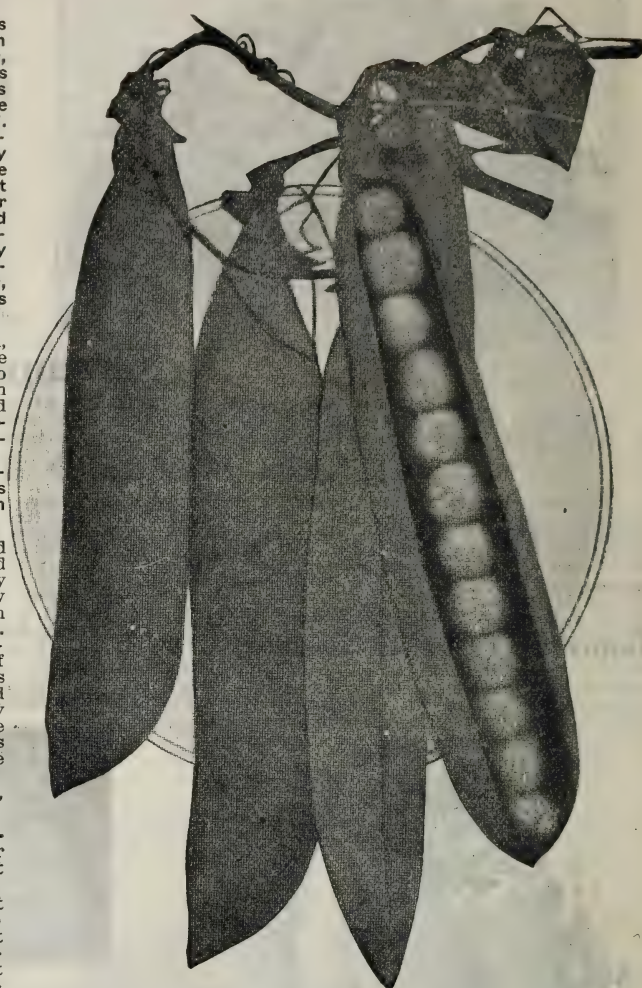
PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25

First and Best. A standard first early variety, popular with gardeners in all parts of the country. This variety is perhaps more largely grown by market gardeners for first early than any other. Crop is very short this year.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 12c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., 90c; pk., \$1.65.

Premium Gem. Height one foot; early and prolific; a type of and an improvement on the McLean Little Gem; pods long and of dark green color. The most popular sort for family use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.10; pk., \$2.00.

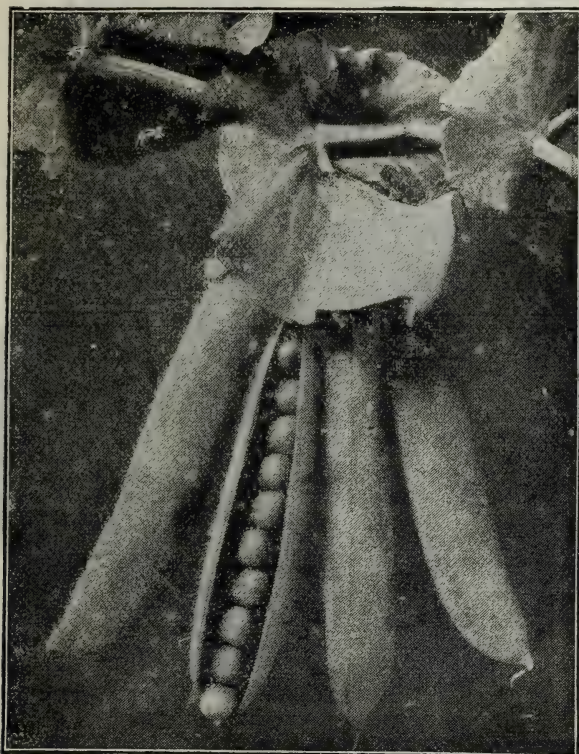


RATEKIN'S NEW WONDER.



IOWA CHALLENGE PEA.

PEAS—Continued.



GRADUS PEA.

but the peas and pods eaten together, as they contain so much sugar, starch and gluten; are very nutritious for family use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 60c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

Improved Stratagem. Late variety for family or market use. Half-dwarf, vigorous, branching habit, and under favorable conditions an enormous cropper. Pods long and filled with seven to nine large peas of extra fine quality. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.00.

Champion of England. One of the richest, best flavored peas grown. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.00.

Bliss Everbearing. Height two feet; late to very late, hardy, enormous cropper; pods and peas of large size and good quality. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 20c; pk., \$1.50.

Yorkshire Hero. (Big Gem). Height one and one-half feet. Seeds large, yellowish green, wrinkled. Quality fine. PRICE: Large pkt., 5c; qt., 40c. By express or freight: Qt., 25c; ½ pk., \$1.85; pk., \$2.25.

Tom Thumb. This variety was introduced years ago. Vine bushy, growing to a height of ten inches; foliage heavy; productive; matures in thirty-five days after sprouting. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 40c.

Marrowfat. Is grown largely by gardeners and also sown as a field pea for stock. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 10c; qt., 35c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.00; pk., \$2.00.

Field Peas. See list of Miscellaneous Field Seeds.

Nott's Excelsior. A superb new variety, and we are sure our customers will welcome it as an ideal family and market pea. It is fully as sweet and delicious as the American Wonder, and grows one-half taller. Pods are larger and it is far more productive than the Premium Gem, and it is within a day or two as early as the first early smooth pea. The peas are ready for table use within 43 days from planting. Quality very superior. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 55c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.25; pk., \$2.25.

Everbearing. Height 2 feet; late to very late; hardy, vigorous, enormous cropper, pods and peas of large size and good quality. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 45c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.00; pk., \$2.00.

Gradus or Prosperity. One of the finest peas for family use. This remarkable pea is not only large and of the best quality, but it is nearly or quite as early as the small, round, extra early sorts. GRADUS is a wrinkled pea with a vine growing about 30 inches high. The pods are of a bright green color, and measure four inches or more in length, as large as Telephone, and equally well filled with luscious peas—8 to 10 or more in a pod. The peas are of the highest table quality and retain in a remarkable manner their color and attractive appearance after cooking. It is a grand pea in all respects.

Pkt., 10c; ½ pt., 20c; qt., 55c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.50; pk., \$2.50.

Telephone. Immensely productive, of the finest quality and excellent sugary flavor; vines very strong, the pods are of large size, with six or seven large, delicious peas; height 4 feet. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; ½ pt., 15c; qt., 50c. By express: ½ pk., \$1.00; pk., \$2.00.

Mammoth Luscious Sugar. This new sugar pea bears pods much larger than any other variety, often six or seven inches long and an inch and one-half broad. They should not be shelled,

IMPROVED GROUND PEA OR PEANUT.

Peanuts can be grown anywhere and everyone should plant them for themselves and children.

Red Cross. This very desirable variety is as early is the earliest, the most hardy, very prolific and of the best quality. Boys, here is a chance for you. Think of growing peanuts in your own garden and have plenty of them to eat. Shell the nuts carefully so as not to break the inside skin, and plant as soon as the ground becomes warm, from two to three feet apart each way, four or five to the hill, covering two inches. The soil should be deep and mellow. They produce 25 to 70 bushels per acre and are as easily cultivated as corn. PRICE: Large package, 10c; lb., 40c. By express: 5 lbs. or more, 25c per lb.

Spanish. A very early variety, but the pods are small. PRICE: Package, 10c; lb., 50c.

Sweet Peas While you are ordering peas for the vegetable garden, don't forget the beautiful Sweet Peas. We have something to say along this line that will certainly interest you.

Pumpkin

ONE OUNCE WILL PLANT TWENTY-FIVE HILLS. FOUR POUNDS WILL PLANT ONE ACRE.

Pumpkins are not so particular in regard to soil as melons or cucumbers, but in other respects are cultivated the same, though on a larger scale. They are generally raised between hills of corn, but may be planted with success in fields by themselves.

Pumpkins are sold in the markets in large quantities every fall and are considered a very profitable crop. They are also valuable for feeding to stock.

Include a few pounds in your order. Planted with corn two pounds will plant one acre.

Ratekin's Mammoth Prize.

(Sold only in sealed packages). The largest pumpkin grown. HAS WEIGHED AS HIGH AS 225 LBS. A prize winner. The flesh is fine grained and the quality is excellent. The flesh and skin are of bright golden yellow color. Notwithstanding its large size it is a fine variety for pies and is a splendid keeper. If you wish to see just how large a pumpkin you can grow try this variety. PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 50c; lb., \$1.60.

Japanese Pie. A crook neck variety. Early. Seeds are marked very curiously. Flesh deep yellow; of fine quality. Keeps well. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; 1 lb., 95c.

Early Sugar or Pie. Small, round, flattened, prolific, deep orange yellow. Flesh fine grained, sweet and of the finest quality. A good keeper. One of the best for pies. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., 75c.

Sweet or Sugar. Fruit small and round. A very prolific variety and superior for pies and table use. The skin is deep orange yellow; an excellent keeper. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Connecticut Field. The common field or cow pumpkin. If you have any live stock to feed it will pay you to put in a few acres of these. PRICE: Oz., 5c; ¼ lb., 10c; lb., by mail, 35c. By express or freight: 10 lbs., \$1.75; bu., of 25 lbs., \$3.90.

Large Cheese Pumpkin. Large, round, flattened fruits, with creamy buff skin. It is an excellent keeping variety; with thick flesh of excellent fine quality. Commonly called sweet pumpkin throughout the West. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

Yankee Pie. This is the noted New England Pie or Small Sugar Pumpkin. Same shape and color as the "Connecticut Field," but smaller, very sweet, fine grained and one of the best varieties for table use. We have sold this to thousands of customers in all parts of the country, and it pleases everyone for making pies. Early and very productive. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



RATEKIN'S MAMMOTH PRIZE.

Mammoth Tours. Also called "Mammoth Whale." Originated near Tours, France, where it is largely grown, both for feeding cattle and table use. Grows to an immense size, sometimes 3 feet in length, and to a weight of 100 to 200 lbs. Flesh of salmon color. Seed of a peculiar shape.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; 1 lb., \$1.40.

The last order I sent you received and planted July 1st, and had roasting ears from it in 60 days.
C. A. HENDON, Obion County, Tenn.

Have received seeds all right. Many thanks.
MRS. S. C. PAYNE, Shelby, Mich.

Your Prizetaker Onion is extra fine; from \$3.00 worth of seed I have 150 bushels of good saleable onions; everyone who has seen my onion patch says it is the best they ever saw; they are excellent keepers.
O. M. WOOD, Council Hill, Okla.

Just received my seeds ordered from you and am well pleased with them.
MRS. SUSAN J. REIGHARD, Ebensburg, Penn.

I have received seeds all O. K., and am very much pleased with them.
J. F. COURTRIGHT, Chandler, Okla.

"PRIDE OF NISHNA" obtained from you planted May 18th to 23rd; got perfect stand; matured finely, yielding 75 bushels per acre.
O. J. LUNN, Rock County, Wis.



MAMMOTH TOURS.



SCARLET OLIVE.

ROSY GEM.

NE PLUS ULTRA. FRENCH BREAKFAST.

One ounce for 100 feet of drill; eight to ten pounds for an acre.

Radish seed should be sown in light, rich soil as early as the ground can be worked, and for a succession at intervals of two weeks until midsummer. Radishes must be grown quickly and have plenty of room or they will invariably be tough and pithy. Sow in drills one foot apart and thin to two or three inches apart as soon as the rough leaves appear. Most of our radish seed was grown for us in France, "the natural home of radishes," and we think it cannot be surpassed.

Icicle. (See drawing from nature on back cover.) A new early white radish. This magnificent novelty received its name from the almost transparent whiteness of the root. Although a long radish of good size it vies in earliness with the first forcing sorts. It will produce a radish $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 inches long in 22 days from sowing the seed. The leaves are short, admitting of close planting in the hotbeds. The flesh is very white, crisp and brittle as glass, and of fine mild flavor. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 35c.

Improved Chartier. Is decidedly distinct in appearance from any radish in cultivation. Its form is well defined by our engraving, the color at the top being crimson, running into pink about the middle and from thence downward is a pure waxy white. **PRICE:** Same as Early Scarlet Turnip.

French Breakfast. A small, handsome variety of very quick growth; one-half inch in diameter and two inches long. Color bright carmine, with clear white in lower portion. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Ne Plus Ultra. An improvement on the "Deep Scarlet Turnip." Remarkably fine in quality, of very quick growth, and ready to pull within 20 days after sowing. Perfectly globular little roots of very bright color and excellent shape; certain to insure ready sale on the market. It is one of the best strains of early radishes for forcing. Beds are planted, the crop matured and sold and the beds ready for a second planting, all in 30 days. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Rosy Gem. An improvement on the "Scarlet Turnip White Tip." Their shape is perfectly globular, with rich, deep scarlet top, blending into pure white at the bottom, exceedingly tender, crisp, delicious, equally desirable for either the market or home garden. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

Ratekin's Radish Mixture.

A superb mixture of all kinds of radishes, early, medium, fall, winter, Chinese, etc. Sow a row of it and it will furnish you delicious radishes throughout the year. The early and medium ones, as they mature and are pulled, make room for the larger growth of the fall and winter varieties. This mixture is made up of twelve best varieties, and with it is necessary to make but one sowing for the entire year. You will be surprised and delighted with our popular radish mixture.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 15c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

STANDARD VARIETIES.

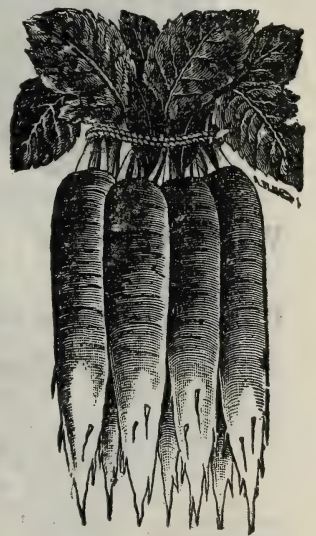
We can supply any of the well known and tried sorts listed below:

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Early Scarlet Turnip.
White Lady Finger.
Cincinnati Market.
Early Scarlet Olive.
White Strasburg.
Early Frame.
Early Long Scarlet Short Top.
Black Spanish.
Rose China Winter.
Long White.
California Mammoth White.



SCARLET TURNIP WHITE TIPPED.



IMPROVED CHARTIER.

I am sending you an order for seeds. I have used your seeds for several years and like them fine. Last year I raised seven bushels of sunflower seed from less than a pound of your seed and also raised some very fine Rockyford muskmelons and sweet peppers.

MRS. R. M. HENRY, Knox City, Mo., Mar. 12, 1911.

Squash

The squash is one of the most nutritious and valuable of all our garden vegetables. Few farmers appreciate the value of winter squash as food for stock. We think an acre of squash costing no more to cultivate and much less to secure will give as much food available for feeding stock as an acre of corn, and we strongly urge our readers to try a "patch" for this purpose. One ounce of early varieties will plant about 40 hills; one ounce of late varieties will plant about 20 hills; 3 to 4 lbs. to the acre.

New GOLDEN HUBBARD SQUASH

PRODUCTIVE
EARLY
BEAUTIFUL
GOOD

New Golden Hubbard Squash.

Productive, Early, Beautiful, Good. This is a True Hubbard Squash, except in color, which is bright golden. The vine is a vigorous but not a rampant grower and very productive. The shell is warty, hard and strong, and a very beautiful orange-red, except for a bit of olive green on the blossom end. The flesh is a deep orange and uniformly so to the rind, never having the green tinge so objectionable in other sorts. It cooks very dry, fine grained and good flavored.



We believe this is the best fall and winter sort yet introduced, and that it deserves to and will become a most popular variety. It certainly has no superior as a table squash. Send to RATEKIN'S for the best seed.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

There is no vegetable you will appreciate more than our early squashes. Try them.

Early Bush Crookneck.

Splendid summer sort, early, productive, very fine quality. With all the new varieties recently brought out, many claim that there is no summer squash superior to this.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; 1 lb., 65c.

White Bush Scalloped.

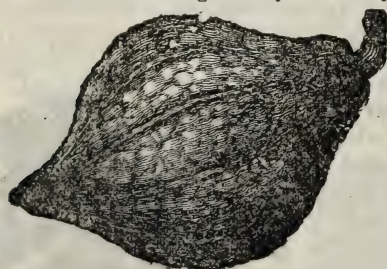
Similar to the Golden Bush; color creamy white; an excellent variety for the family garden for early use.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 75c.

True Hubbard.

This old variety has for years stood the test of all rivals, and is the most popular winter squash grown; hard, green shell; flesh bright orange yellow, fine grained, very dry, sweet and of rich flavor; keeps in perfect condition throughout the winter.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.25.



WARTY HUBBARD.

Warty Hubbard.

A new strain of the Hubbard. The wartiness indicates a keeping squash. It also denotes extra choice quality—the harder and more warty the shell of a Hubbard, the more delicate and sweet the flesh. The flesh, however, is not as thick as the above. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 90c.

Blue Hubbard or Marblehead.

A splendid winter variety. Shell very hard, light blue color; flesh similar to the Hubbard in quality. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 35c; lb., \$1.00.

Sibley or Pike's Peak.

We consider this one of the very best winter varieties. It has the reputation of being the only variety surpassing the Hubbard in quality. Has large oval fruit, tapering at the blossom end. Shell hard, dark olive green color, flesh light orange color, of the very best quality. Vines of strong growth and very productive. Seed has been very scarce for several years past, but we have a good supply. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

SALSIFY OR VEGETABLE OYSTER.

(One ounce will sow 50 feet of drill; 8 pounds to the acre.)

Why don't you sow salsify? We are certain if you grow it one year you would never be without it. It is one of the most delicious and nutritious of vegetables, and should be more generally cultivated for use in winter, when the supply of really good vegetables is so limited. It has the true oyster flavor, and makes a delicious and inexpensive substitute for them in soup. Cultivate like parsnips.

Mammoth Sandwich Island.

Average fully double the size of the old Long White. Roots are white, smooth, and, notwithstanding their enormous size, are of superior quality. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; ¼ lb., 40c; lb., \$1.20.

Wisconsin Golden.

A distinct and valuable new sort. The roots are large, smooth and have a decided yellow cast which gives it its name. They cut smooth and even throughout, unusually brittle and never stringy. When prepared for the table they are very rich, tender and delicious in flavor. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$1.60.



MAMMOTH SANDWICH ISLAND.

Spinach

One ounce will sow about 80 feet of drill; 10 lbs. to the acre.



VICTORIA SPINACH.

The finest "greens" of any plant in cultivation. For summer sow early in spring in deep, rich soil, in drills, one foot apart; cover one inch; sow at intervals of two weeks throughout the season. For very early spring use, sow the first of September; protect by covering with straw.

Victoria. This new variety is distinguished for its exceedingly dark black-green color, and also for its very long standing qualities, being from two to three weeks later than the ordinary varieties. The leaves are thick and spread out flat upon the ground. It is excellent for spring sowing but not sufficiently hardy to withstand the winter in this locality. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 35c. By express: 5 lbs. or more at 25c.

Bloomsdale. A savory-leaved curled variety. Very highly valued; especially in the south. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 40c.

New Zealand. Very useful to supply the place of the ordinary spinach during the very hottest months of the year, or in dry, arid localities. A few plants will supply a family with this delicious vegetable from July to October. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 30c; lb., \$1.00.

Tomato

RATEKIN'S "NAMELESS" TOMATO.

THE EARLIEST, FIRM, SOLID, THICK FLESHED TOMATO GROWN

Combines the earliness of Earliana with the beauty and flavor of Stone and the solidity of Ponderosa.

A first early tomato introduced by us that will displace all other varieties for earliness, size, color, shape and solidity; equal alike for either home or market use and canning purposes. This being our (the introducer's) first season, we want each and every one of our customers to try out at least one packet.

We have tested it carefully in all sections of the country, before offering it to the trade, from New Jersey to Oregon, from Minnesota to Texas, in fact, every section of the country where tomatoes are grown, and have proven conclusively to our own satisfaction, that they are **THE VERY BEST EARLY TOMATO GROWN.** In New Jersey and surrounding locality, the fruits ripen up evenly and set more freely than Earliana, also they command a higher price on the market on account of their color, size and shape. In the northwest they are sure to set their fruit, are abundant bearers and have proven themselves practically free from that terrible blight which affects all other varieties in that section.

In the south the "Nameless" will prove a winner. It ripens for first early market, keeps well, is a good shipper, but best of all, "Nameless" will withstand the hot dry winds, is free from the rot and blight which southern gardeners are always fighting.

DESCRIPTION: The plants are very compact, with stout, close jointed branches, which set the fruit very freely. The fruits are of good size, brilliant scarlet in color, smooth and remarkably handsome. The flesh is solid, almost "beefy," contain very few seeds and with but small core. It fruits continually until frost and will prove one of the very best of slicing varieties.

PRICE: Per pkt., 15c; oz., 75c; ¼ lb., \$2.50.

\$10.00 FOR A NAME.

The "Nameless" is only temporary. We want a good descriptive name for this new tomato and will give a prize of \$10.00 in gold for the best name suggested and an additional prize of \$5.00 for the best description during growing and fruiting period. Try out this tomato and write us in September.



TOMATOES—Continued.

ONE OUNCE OF SEED WILL PRODUCE FROM 3000 TO 4000 PLANTS.

CULTURE: For first early Tomatoes select varieties of the earliest types, and start the plants under glass during February. When plants are two inches high, transplant into flats, thumb pots or plant boxes, and later on transplant again, giving more room. Never crowd the plants, but keep them short and stocky. Plants already in bloom or with fruit set, if in wooden plant boxes or in pots, may be transplanted to open ground without disturbing their roots, and will continue to bloom and fruit without check. Set these sorts four feet apart each way in warm, mellow soil of fair fertility as soon as danger from belated frosts is past. For main crop, the plants can be started somewhat later, in hotbed or cold frame, once transplanted to keep them stocky, and then set in open ground, in fairly good warm soil, five feet each way. A very ornamental show can be made in the home garden by training tomato plants to stakes, poles or trellis.



RATEKIN'S EARLIEST TOMATO.

size and sweeter flavor, produced throughout the

Ponderosa. The largest fruited tomato, and is of fine quality for slicing. The vines are of strong growth; fruits oblong in form, deep through, and generally ridged or ribbed; deep purple in color. They are solidly fleshy with small seed cells; of fine flavor. Planted in good soil, fruits frequently attain a weight of one pound or more. Pkt., 10c; ½ oz., 25c; oz., 40c; ¼ lb., \$1.00; lb., \$3.75, postpaid.

Sparks' Earliana. An extremely early variety of tomato, and produces large clusters of fair size fruits, which are very uniform in size and shape. It is hardy, and can be set out early. Color of flesh deep red, very solid and fine flavor. Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c.

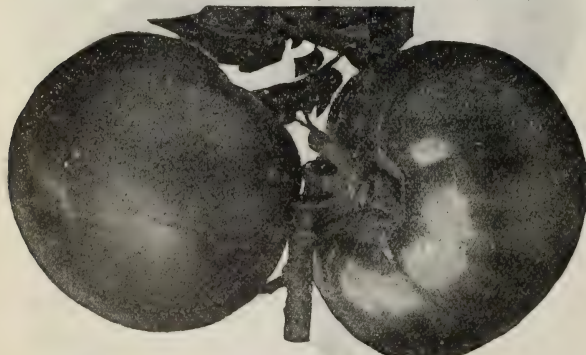
Livingston's Globe. In shape this tomato is distinct from all others, being a beautiful globe. It ripens through and through; a fine glossy rose in color, tinged with purple; very productive. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., \$1.00.

Livingston's Coreless. Almost round, being of about the same diameter each way. Clusters of 4 to 7 fruits are produced at 6 to 8 inches apart along the stem, and all are of good size. A grand, good slicing variety, the seed cells being surrounded by bright red, heavy, meaty and delicious flesh. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., \$1.00.

Acme. Early and bears fruit until cut off by frost. Fruit is purplish, always round, smooth and of good size, and is borne in clusters of four or five; free from cracks and stands shipment well. Flesh is solid and of excellent flavor. Excellent for home and market. Does well both outdoors and under glass. This is a good canning variety. Large pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 60c; lb., \$2.25, postpaid.

June Pink. The fruits grow in clusters, and begin to mature very early, measure three inches in diameter and are of excellent quality. It bears for a long season, until the vines are killed by frost. Pkt., 10c; oz., 35c; ¼ lb., \$1.00.

Mixed Tomatoes. For the advantage of some of our customers who would like to try all kinds, we have prepared this mixture of the varieties named and several others which we think will please all. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., 85c.



NEW STONE.

Ratekin's Earliest Tomato. Unquestionably the earliest of all. If you sow "Ratekin's Earliest," you will have, with favorable weather, fine tomatoes in ninety days from sowing the seed. It is an excellent shipper, being exempt from rot or cracking, ripens all over at once, and is a wonderfully smooth tomato—none smoother.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Ratekin's Beauty. THE BEST MAIN CROP TOMATO. (See back cover for colored plate). Smooth, uniform, prolific, a long keeper and of the finest quality. Fruit is a glossy crimson, of large size and so perfect and uniform that they look as though each one were moulded with a stamp. On account of its perfect shape and great beauty, it is unsurpassed for market. Its quality is excellent, flesh solid, beefy and with very few seeds. Ripens up after the first earlies and continues to bear fruit until frost. A splendid keeper; ripe fruit fresh from the vine have been kept in perfect condition from three to four weeks during the warm summer weather. Planted together side by side with our new tomato, "THE NAMELESS," you will have two of the most profitable tomatoes to be grown and can cater to the most critical of markets, thereby gaining the highest prices. PRICE: Pkt., 10c; 3 pkts., 25c; oz., 40c; ¼ lb., 90c; lb., \$3.00.

Chalk's Early Jewel. The largest, smoothest and finest flavored, extra early bright red tomato. About ten days later than Spark's Earliana. It is even a heavier cropper, with tomatoes of larger season. Pkt., 10c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Matchless. Well worthy of its name, for in beauty of color and symmetry of form it is indeed without a peer. The vines are of strong, vigorous growth, well set with fruit; are entirely free from core, of the finest flavor, of a very rich cardinal red color and not liable to crack from wet weather; of largest size, and the size of the fruit is maintained throughout the season. Solid, a fine quality, and keeps well.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 75c; lb., \$2.50.

Yellow Plum or Pear. For pickling and preserves. Fruit uniformly oval, lemon colored and smooth skinned. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 25c; ¼ lb., 25c; 1 lb., \$2.25.

New Stone. This is the heaviest and most solid fruited of the large tomatoes of good quality. Our stock is distinctly superior to most of that offered under this name, being more uniform, better colored and larger. Vines vigorous and productive. Fruit round, apple shaped, very large, very deep red in color and astonishingly heavy.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 20c; ¼ lb., 65c; lb., \$2.25.

**Extra
Early
Purple
Top Milan**

THREE TABLE TURNIPS



One of the earliest sorts in cultivation. The bulb is very flat, of medium size, quite smooth, with a bright purple top.

PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

**Early
White
Milan**

Much like the cut; it is pure white all over, instead of having purple top.

Quite popular with gardeners. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c; lb., 70c.

Golden Ball or Orange Jelly.

A very beautiful and bright yellow turnip of medium size. It is hardy and one of the best of keepers. Flesh extremely firm and solid. Always brings a good price in the market. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.

Purple Top Globe.

Similar to above, except in shape. The largest yielder of any turnip on the list; desirable for table use or stock. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs., or more, not prepaid, 35c lb.

Early Snowball.

A globe-shaped, white skinned turnip, which is particularly adapted for family or market use. exceedingly productive; very early and Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

Purple Top Strap Leaved.

The standard for this part of the country for late planting. Round, flat, good sized, small top, good flavor. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, 35c lb.,

Early White Flat Dutch.

An early garden variety of excellent quality. Good size and tender. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

Mixed Turnips.

All the table varieties of turnips mixed in equal proportions. A desirable mixture for family use. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 60c.



PURPLE TOP GLOBE.

RUTABAGAS.

Purple Top.

A large early sort of fine quality. Roots globe shaped, skin purplish red above ground and yellow below; flesh yellow; necks small. An excellent variety in every way. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.



Monarch.

This grand, new distinct form of rutabaga is, we believe, by far the best of all. The bulbs are of tankard shape, with very small neck, skin dark red above ground and yellow below, fine grained and best quality. Only variety succeeding on our prairie soil. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 35c.

Improved American.

Very solid, fine quality, valuable for the table and for feeding stock; good shape; smooth skin, small neck; keeps well; a choice strain. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 45c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 30c.

White Sweet German.

Large size, oval form and very solid; flesh pure white and sweet. The best keeping variety. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, at 35c.

Carter's Imp. Hardy Swede.

Large size, excellent quality and immense yielder. PRICE: Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 40c; 5 lbs. or more, not prepaid, 25c.



A VERY SELECT LIST OF FLOWER SEEDS.

We are pleased to offer a very choice list of the most popular and easily grown flower seeds. They are all strictly fresh and first class and the best obtainable. We know you will be pleased with them, as they will undoubtedly prove a thing of joy and beauty. We urge every farmer (under the supervision and efficient assistance of the good wives) to plant and adorn the home with flowers; it will pay in more ways than one.

We regret that we cannot illustrate every one of the varieties we list, but space forbids. Many varieties that are usually listed separately we have included in a single package under the name of mixed varieties.

The pleasure resulting from a large and varied collection of flowers will amply repay for the time and labor used.

The grade and varieties we handle are of the best, so we cannot make any great cut on prices, filling the packages as we do. We can guarantee you great value for the money, and know you will be fully satisfied if you pass us your order. Our list contains the up-to-date varieties.

For \$1.00 you may select seeds in pkts. amounting to \$1.25. For \$2.00 you may select Seeds in Pkts. amounting to \$2.50. For \$3.00 you may select seeds in pkts. amounting to \$3.75. For \$4.00 you may select seeds in pkts. amounting to \$5.00.

ASTERS. It is unnecessary to dwell on the great beauty of these popular favorites as they are appreciated by everyone. Our seed is the finest that France and Germany can produce. We recommend our friends to plant a number of varieties, as no other annuals afford so magnificent a display during the summer and fall. Hardy annual.

For \$1.00 you may select seed in pkts. amounting to \$1.25. For \$3.00 you may select seed in pkts. amounting to \$3.75.

DWARF CHRYSANTHEMUM—FLOWERED. Very desirable on account of its large and perfect flowers, great beauty and late blooming, mixed, 10-inch. **PRICE:** 5c.

QUEEN OF THE MARKET. Of graceful spreading habit; its great merit is its early flowering character, being in full bloom fully two weeks before any other Aster begins to blossom; mixed colors; 12-inch. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. Embracing a great many varieties and colors. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

ANTIRRHINUM (Snapdragon). Gaily colored flowers. Choice mixed. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

BACHELOR'S BUTTONS. It is a beauty, the national flower of Germany, and a great favorite in all parts of the old country. An unique little plant, forming a dense mass of foliage, over which are borne hundreds of lovely blue blossoms, beautifully fringed and serrated. Hardy annuals; two to three feet high. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

CANA. Stately and highly ornamental foliage plants, growing from five to ten feet high, and forming a most beautiful object for the lawn or for large circular beds. Mixed, all colors. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

ALGERATUM. Valuable plants for large beds or borders, and very useful where cut flowers are in demand; in bloom the whole summer; also good for winter blooming in pots; succeeding in any soil. Indispensable for bouquets. Hardy annuals.

FINE MIXED. 13-inch. **PRICE:** 5c.

ADONIS. Scarlet flower; best mixture. Pkt., 5c.

BALSAMS.

LADY SLIPPERS or TOUCH-ME-NOT. These are old favorites with everyone owing to their handsome double flowers, brilliant colors and stately growth. Half-hardy annuals.

CAMELIA, FLOWERED. Double, very choice; spotted and variegated with white, mixed. **PRICE:** 5c.

FINE MIXED. Finest varieties and colors, mixed. 5c.

DOUBLE CAMELIA—FLOWERED. These are (like Asters, Pansies, Phlox and Peas) one of our specialties, which we sell to the best trade all over the country, and we know that our seed will produce fine, large, double flowers in great abundance.

ALYSSUM, SWEET. White in clusters; beautiful for borders. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.

BALLOON VINE.

A very pretty, rapid growing climber, succeeding best in a warm situation. Remarkable for its inflated, semi-transparent capsules. Sometimes called "Love in a Puff;" flowers white. **PRICE:** Pkt., 5c.



ASTERS.



BALSAM.

FLOWERS—Continued.



Candytuft.

CYPRESS VINE. A beautiful climber with delicate, dark green foliage, and an abundance of bright star-shaped scarlet and white blossoms, which, in the bright sunshine, is a mass of beauty. Mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.



Carnation.

FOUR O'CLOCK (Marvel of Peru). Everyone knows this favorite annual. Pkt., 5c.
CHRYSANTHEMUM. A handsome plant, with striking and brilliant flowers, blooming till late in the autumn, when it is in full glory; producing double and single flowers of various shades; very attractive for bouquets and vases. Sometimes called "Painted Daisies." Hardy annuals. Single Annual, mixed, pkt., 5c. Crimson and Double Annual, mixed colors, pkt., 5c.

GERANIUM. Started early, this favorite flower can be produced from the seed, and will flower the first season. Finest mixed. Pkt., 5c.

GALLARDIA. (Annual varieties). Very showy garden annuals, 1 to 2 feet high. Grown in masses they are specially effective; large flowers, 2 or 3 inches across, produced from early summer until frost; unrivaled for cutting. Pkt., 5c.

HELIOTROPE. A well-known, profuse flowering and deliciously fragrant plant that everyone loves. Splendid for bedding or pot culture. Can be easily raised from seed, but should be started early in the house. Half hardy perennial. FINE MIXED. Choicest varieties mixed; 18-inch. Pkt., 5c.

SWEET WILLIAM (Finest Mixed). Hardy plants about one foot high, of extreme richness and variety of color, and also deliciously sweet-scented. Our mixture is of the large flowered strain and contains many bright and beautiful colors and markings. Pkt., 5c.

SUNFLOWER. Some varieties of this well known plant are very ornamental, and are effective in proper situations in shubbery borders or as screens. Pkt., 10c.

CALCEOLARIA. Mixed colors. Pkt., 10c.

CANTERBURY BELLS. Very ornamental garden plants of easiest culture; hardy biennial, 2½ feet high, producing large, bell-shaped flowers of exquisite colors. Fine mixed. Pkt., 5c.

CARNATION. The finest of the Pink family, very fragrant. Our seed is unsurpassed. Finest mixed, the best greenhouse variety. Pkt., 10c.

CINERARIA. As will be seen by the illustration from a single plant, the Cineraria is a wonder for wealth of bloom and symmetry of form.

LARGE FLOWERING MIXED. Pkt., 10c.



Canterbury Bells.

DAISY (Bellis Perennis). Will make young, strong plants to carry over winter, with protection, and blooms very early in the spring.

FINE DOUBLE MIXED. Six-inch. Pkt., 5c.

NEW GIANT SNOWBALL. A most charming variety of this handsome little flower. Don't fail to give little beauty a fair trial, and it will be sure to please you. PRICE: Per pkt., 10c.

DAHLIA. Everyone knows and admires the Double Dahlia, but few are aware that it can be grown so easily from seed, and flowers the first season.

DOUBLE MIXED. Finest varieties, two to four feet. Pkt., 5c.

FOX-GLOVE (Digitalis). Showy for backgrounds and borders and are very beautiful when planted among shrubs. Thrives in any ordinary garden soil. Fine mixed colors. Pkt., 5c.

DIANTHUS (Pink). The China and Japan Pinks are deservedly very popular, as few flowers can equal them in beauty and profusion of bloom.

CHINESE (Double Chinese Pink.) A splendid mixture; one of the finest varieties; one foot. Pkt., 5c.

FANCY MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

CANDYTUFT (Iberis). Among the most useful of perfectly hardy annuals. Will grow in any soil, requires no care, and produces neat clusters of flowers very freely.

EMPRESS. A beautiful, pure white variety of branching habit, producing trusses of flowers. We can recommend this for a fine bed of early white flowers. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. Including many colors. Pkt., 5c.

CALLIOPSIS. Bright golden flowers, rich velvety and orange colors in choicest mixture. Pkt., 5c.

COXCOMB. A class of very magnificent, attractive and showy annuals, producing massive heads, of rich shades and colors, of great effect in the garden or in plots. Well adapted to our climate, as they will stand drouth well.

FINEST MIXED. All colors; 2 feet. Pkt., 5c.

COSMOS—MAMMOTH PERFECTION. Seed sown in April or May and transplanted to open ground will produce plants 5 to 6 feet high by September, and from then till November will be covered with hundreds of blossoms 3 inches across, resembling single dahlias. All colors, mixed. Pkt., 5c.

HYBRIDUS MIXED. A choice mixture of all colors and sorts. Pkt., 4c.

FORGET-ME-NOT. Well known garden favorites. Flowers freely from seed the first summer. Blue, sky-blue, white, mixed. Pkt., 5c.

GOURDS (Climbing). These curious and interesting plants should be more largely grown. All varieties mixed. Pkt. 5c.



Heliotrope.

I have used your seeds for three years and always got the best of results. The Diamond Joe Big White is the best corn I have ever grown. It is all you claim for it. Sincerely,
 Vigo County, Ind., April 22nd, 1911.
 H. L. CONLEY.

FLOWERS—Continued

HOLLYHOCKS. All our seeds of this beautiful plant have been saved from the finest and largest double flowers only, and will produce flowers extremely double and in the best, brightest and most charming colors. Sow early. Double, pkt., 5c; single, pkt., 5c.

HIBISCUS. Robust garden annuals; large saucer-shaped flowers of creamy yellow, with purple center; 2 feet. Pkt., 5c.

HYACINTHUS CANDIDANS. Giant summer-flowering hyacinth of robust growth, producing spikes 3 feet long, of white bell-shaped flowers; 5 feet. Pkt., 5c.

ICE PLANT. Pretty summer annual trailer for vases and rockwork; leaves covered with ice-like drops. Much used in Europe for garnishing; ½ ft. Pkt., 5c.

LARKSPUR (Delphinium). Plants of great beauty, richness and endless variety of colors, with great duration and profusion of bloom.

DOUBLE FINE MIXED. Many varieties and colors. Pkt., 5c.

LATANA. Rapid growing, constant blooming, tender perennial plants for pot culture in the winter or garden decorations in the summer; clusters of flowers, orange, white, pink, etc.; 2 to 3 feet. Mixed colors. Pkt., 10c.

MARIGOLD (Tagetes). A free-flowering plant of easy culture, with double flowers of rich and beautiful colors, producing a splendid effect, whether planted in beds or borders, and continuing in beauty until destroyed by frost. Half-hardy annuals.

AFRICAN MIXED. Best double colors; 2 feet. Pkt., 5c.

DOUBLE FRENCH MIXED. Yellow, brown and crimson, beautifully striped; 1 foot. Pkt., 5c.

MIGNONETTE (Reseda Odorato). This fragrant little plant is probably the most popular annual grown. If the plants are thinned out they will grow stronger and produce larger spikes of flowers.

SWEET SCENTED (Odorato). The old variety, very fragrant; 1 foot. Pkt., 5c.

MIGNONETTE, MIXED. Many varieties. Pkt., 5c.

MORNING GLORIES (Fine Mixed). A mixture of the old varieties. Pkt., 4c.

MOON FLOWER (Finest Mixed). Pkt., 5c.

NASTURTIUM (Dwarf). One of our showiest and most popular annuals, forming compact plants, making gorgeous masses of rich colored and brilliant flowers. Pkt., 5c.

KING OF TOM THUMBS. Pkt., 5c.

FINEST MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

FINEST MIXED TALL NASTURTIUM. Pkt., 5c.

PANSY (Heartease). The pansy is the most popular of all flowers grown from seed. It is everywhere popular, both for the brilliant beauty of its flowers and the long continuation of bloom.

FAUST OR KING OF THE BLACK. Pkt., 5c.

WHITE OR SNOW QUEEN. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

PETUNIAS. Indispensable flowering plants for both garden and pot culture, flowering continuously. They flower in a few weeks' time from seed. Height about one foot.

SINGLE, FINE MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

ALBA. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

DRUMMONDI. Pkt., 8c.

PORTULACA. In brilliancy and beauty of colors Portulacas are unrivaled. They delight in sunny situations and light soils, where they rapidly carpet the ground.

FINEST SINGLE MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

DOUBLE ROSE, FLOWERED MIXED. Pkt., 5c.

RICINUS (Castor Oil Bean). Ornamental plant of stately growth and picturesque foliage, with brilliant colored fruit, producing a sub-tropical effect; fine for lawns.

ZANZIBARIENSIS. The largest castor bean in cultivation. An entirely new class from Africa, with leaves often measuring two feet across, some being light green, others bronze brown. Pkt., 5c.

FINE MIXED. The best and choicest varieties mixed. Pkt., 5c.



MIGNONETTE.



RATEKIN
Shenandoah
Ia.

RATEKIN'S DOUBLE HOLLYHOCKS.



PHLOX
DRUMMONDI.

DOUBLE PORTULACA.

WALLFLOWER. Greatly prized for their exquisite fragrance. They grow in long, brilliant colored spikes of flowers. There are many varieties. Plants removed to pots in autumn will produce an abundance of delightfully fragrant flowers.

DOUBLE VARIETIES MIXED. Pkt., 10c.

I am glad to state I received the seed corn all O. K. yesterday in good condition, and am well pleased with it. Truly,
ADOLPH ANDERSON.

Hardin County, Ky., Jan. 10th, 1911.
Please don't forget to send me a catalogue as soon as ready for mailing, as I surely want one. The Diamond Joe Seed Corn I got from you last spring was fine, gave splendid results and proved all you claimed for it. I am well pleased. Truly yours,
CHAS. L. SEIBERT.

FLOWERS—Continued

CHOICE NEW SPENCER SWEET PEAS.

Noted for their distinct markings. Flowers are large, beautifully waved and fluted on the standards, with well waved wings.

RATEKIN'S GRAND NEW SWEET PEA

The J. J. Doty

This grand new novelty is without doubt one of the most pure, chaste and charming of sweet peas. Originally a sport from King Edward, we have developed the strain until it remains perfectly true. It is a radiantly beautiful New Spencer Sweet Pea, most daintily colored pearl white from throat to center; then appears a veiled flush of pink, deepening in intensity as it merges into the marginal zone of soft tyrian rose. The standard and wings are immense, uniformly waved and crinkled to a pronounced degree, and are adorned alike, front and back being tinted and colored just the same. The flowers are perfection in form and of the largest size, standards upright, open, well rounded out and beautifully waved. The wings are very large, gracefully waved and crinkled and on account of their immense size excites admiration and comment wherever shown.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., \$1.00.

NOTE—We have been growing the Spencer type of sweet pea for years, but hesitated in offering seed stock to our customers on account of their natural tendency to revert back to original strains. In the James J. Doty (so named in honor of that illustrious gentleman, who is a great flower lover, and who made particular comment on this new sweet pea during a recent visit), we have new Spencer that runs absolutely true to name.

The Marjorie Ratekin.

THE LARGEST AND BEST LAVENDER SPENCER SWEET PEA YET INTRODUCED. The flowers are truly magnificent and of immense size. The standard is unusually large and bold, pronouncedly waved, yet standing erect and broad, frequently measuring two inches across. The color is a soft, clear, rich lavender, which is enlivened by a very fair sheen of rose pink.

The large, well-spread wings are of the same coloring, frilled and well waved. It is practically a self color and bunches beautifully, attracting universal admiration. The plant is extremely robust in growth, flowering most profusely. The stout stems measure twelve to fourteen inches in length, and a large proportion bear four well placed flowers.

PRICE: Pkt., 15c; 2 pkts for 25c, postpaid.

APPLE BLOSSOM SPENCER. Rose and blush-pink, beautifully waved.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 30c; ¼ lb., \$1.00.

BLACK KNIGHT SPENCER. Rich, deep maroon, very large.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.50.

COUNTLESS SPENCER. A lovely clear pink, shading deeper at the edges, the original of this type.

FLORENCE MORSE SPENCER. Delicate blush, with pink margin, a charmingly beautiful flower of very large size.

HELEN LEWIS (Orange Countess). Brilliant crimson-orange, wings orange-rose.

KING EDWARD SPENCER. Bright crimson-scarlet. Magnificent in size and color.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.50.

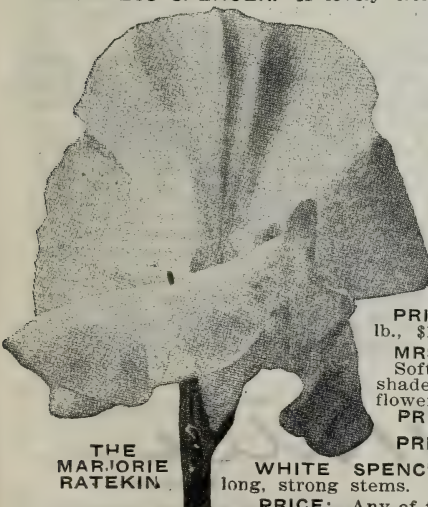
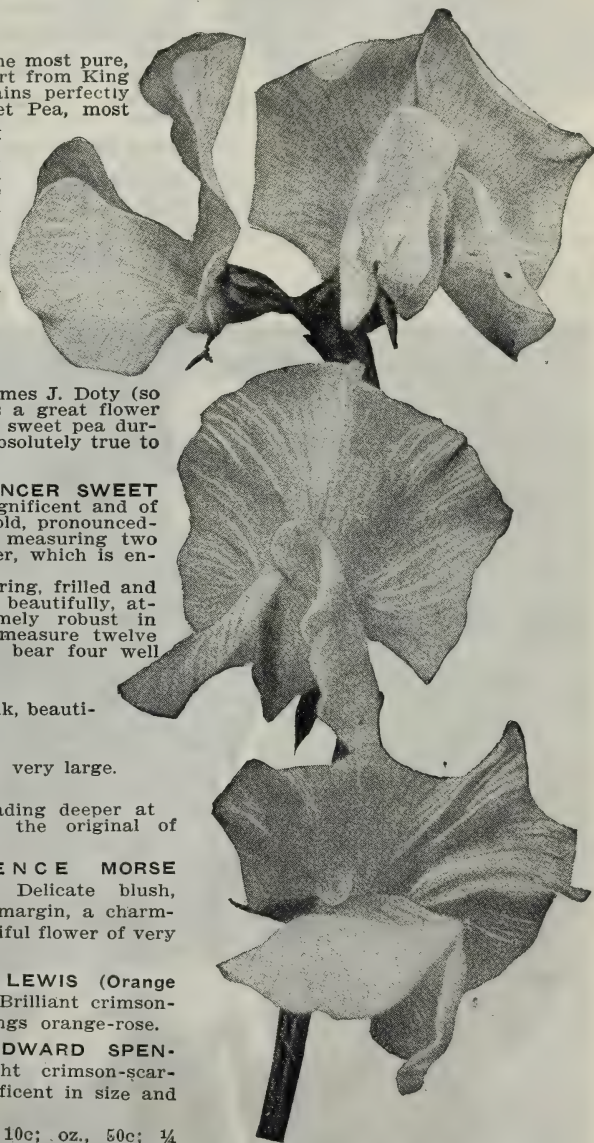
MRS. ROUTZAHN SPENCER. Soft chamois pink, a beautiful shade, and charming as a cut flower.

PRICE: Pkt., 10c; oz., 50c; ¼ lb., \$1.50

PRIMROSE SPENCER. The largest and finest primrose-yellow.

WHITE SPENCER. A pure, wavy white of enormous size and splendid substance; long, strong stems.

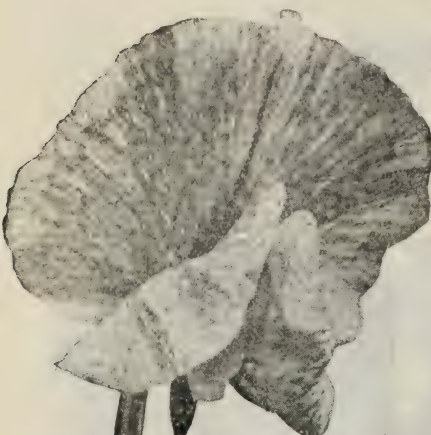
PRICE: Any of the above, except where noted, 10c per pkt.; 20c per oz.; 50c per ¼ lb.



THE
MARJORIE
RATEKIN

THE J. J. DOTY.
The Most Charming of all Sweet Peas.

SWEET PEAS—Continued.



FANCY MIXED. Pkt., 5c; oz., 8c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 50c, postpaid.
VERBENA. Pkt., 10c.
NEW LARGE FLOWERING. Pkt., 5c.
ALBA. Pkt., 6c.

BLANCHE FERRY. Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; lb., 50c.
BLANCHE BURPEE. Pkt., 5c; oz., 15c; lb., 50c.

ECKFORD MIXTURE. By mail, postpaid: Per lb., 55c; ½ lb., 30c; ¼ lb., 15c; oz., 10c; pkt., large size, 5c.

COUNTRESS OF RADNOR. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c.

CUPID. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 25c.

BARGAIN MIXTURES OF SWEET PEAS.

Lb., 30c; ¼ lb., 12c; pkt., 5c.

EMILY HENDERSON. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.

EMILY ECKFORD. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.

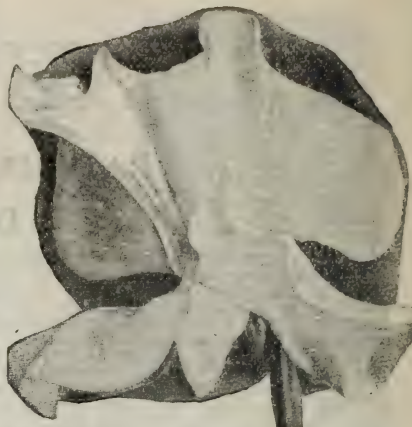
EXTRA EARLY BLANCHE FERRY. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c.

MAID OF HONOR. Pkt., 5c; oz., 8c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

WILHELMINA. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 15c; lb., 45c.

LADY PENZANCE. Pkt., 5c; oz., 10c; ¼ lb., 20c; lb., 50c.

NEW DWARF OR BONFIRE (Large Flowering Scarlet Sage.) Pkt., 10c.



STOCK (Ten Weeks). Pkt., 10c.
VIOLET (Viola Odorata). Pkt., 10c.

EXTRA CHOICE MIXED. Pkt., 7c.
SINGLE MIXED. Pkt., 10c.

THE END

A CLOSING WORD

This Catalogue is now finished. I have done my best to make it instructive and beneficial to every farmer and tiller of the soil—those who plow and plant. My aim has been to give honest descriptions and practical methods.

In another place in this book I have told you I was a farmer's boy, born and brought up to manhood on a farm, and I am proud of it. In fact, I often feel that there is at least one thing for which I should be especially thankful: that much of my earlier life was passed near to nature. Somehow this feeling of gratitude even now in matured years and experience in life, often comes back to me, and I long for the days that are no more.

In this book I have tried to make everything plain, but if there is any further questions you wish to ask write me and we will always be pleased to give you any information we can. In fact, when in doubt about any variety of seeds or crops write us and if we can be of service to you in any way it will be a pleasure to us to serve you. More than two million farmers and planters have found us by a letter; they have planted our seeds with no increased labor and practically no more expense, and have made every acre of land produce one-fourth to one-half more and better crops per acre. With our high-grade seeds all the richness of their soil, all their time, labor and cost of seeds has come back to them in Big Crops and profitable returns. Our Pure-bred Iowa Crown Seed Corn, such seasons of drouth as we had last year, makes more money on \$50 land than many farmers make on \$150 land who plant ordinary scrub varieties. More than 300,000 farmers have tried it, scattered all over the United States—wherever corn is grown and everywhere they grow big crops—bumper crops—where others fail.

Assuring one and all that if favored with your orders for anything in the seed line, however large or small your orders may be, I will strive to treat and serve you in a manner that will please you.



ERRORS. We make them; so does everyone; but we will most cheerfully correct them if you will write us. Try to write good naturedly, but if you cannot, write us anyway. Our best efforts will be made to fill your orders carefully and correctly, and with our increased facilities and additional room we hope to get along the coming season without an error, if possible, and to serve each and all our customers in a manner that will please them. Wishing all a prosperous season and an abundant harvest, I remain sincerely yours

J. M. Ratekin
 Manager
RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE

PLANET JR. TOOLS FOR 1912.

We have not the space to show the whole of the Planet, Jr., line, but will send a descriptive catalogue free on application. All Wheel Hoes for 1912 will be fitted with steel frames. This is a great improvement, as it adds largely to their durability and lasting qualities. By sending your orders to us you can rely upon getting bottom prices.

PLANET, JR., No. 4 COMBINED SEED DRILL, SINGLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$10.50. AS A DRILL ONLY, \$8.50.



This is the most popular combined tool made. It combines in a single implement a first-class hill-dropping seeder, a single wheel hoe or weeder, a cultivator and a plow. The hopper holds two quarts of seed, which can be sown in continuous rows, or dropped in hills at 4, 6, 8, 12 or 24 inches apart.

The drill is detached and the tool frame substituted by removing but one bolt. It then becomes a single wheel hoe. It is useful almost every day of the season at every stage of the garden work. With this one implement the small farmer can do practically all the work in his small crops.

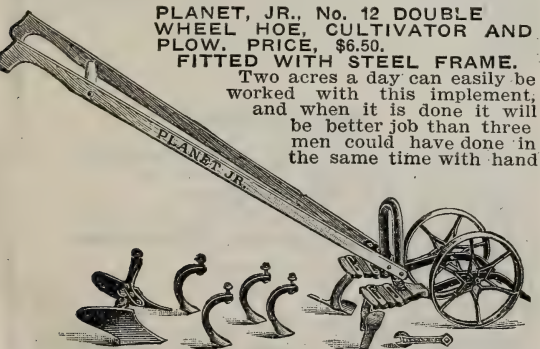
PLANET, JR., No. 1 COMBINED DRILL SEEDER, WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$9.00.



This tool is known and used the world over, and excepting our hill and drill seeders is the most perfect drill known. The hopper holds three pints, and sows in an even, regular

stream, whether there is much or little seed in it. The machine is extremely simple, has no agitators, belts or gearing, and will not injure any seed. From a drill it is changed to its other uses by removing two bolts, when hoes, cultivator teeth or plows can be quickly attached. It is a practical everyday time and labor saver, a grand remedy for the backache, and the best low-priced combined machine on the market.

PLANET, JR., No. 12 DOUBLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$6.50. FITTED WITH STEEL FRAME.



Two acres a day can easily be worked with this implement, and when it is done it will be better job than three men could have done in the same time with hand

hoes. The No. 12 runs either astride or between the rows; kills all the weeds and leaves the earth in fine shape. Then, too, it's so easy to work. Twelve-year-old girls work gardens with them with ease and success.

The No. 12 has a pair of 6-inch hoes, a pair of plows for opening or covering, and a set of 4 all steel cultivator teeth. The tools shown are what gardeners use most and others can be added as wanted.

PLANET, JR., No. 25 COMBINED HILL AND DRILL SEEDER, DOUBLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$13.00.



This new combined machine is intended for gardeners who have a large enough acreage in crops for a Double Wheel Hoe to be used to good advantage and prefer not to buy separate machines.

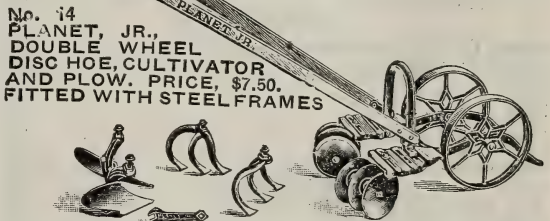
As a drill it is almost identical with the Planet, Jr., No. 4 Drill, and is thoroughly substantial and accurate in sowing all kinds of garden seeds in hills or drills.

As a Wheel Hoe it is practically the same as the Planet, Jr., No. 12 Double Wheel Hoe, the very best machine on the market. The change from Drill to Wheel Hoe takes but a moment, and the whole combination is one we can heartily recommend and guarantee satisfactory.

This new tool will give excellent satisfaction; is especially pleasing to all who work peat lands. There are three oil tempered discs on each side.

The set of prong cultivator

No. 14 PLANET, JR., DOUBLE WHEEL DISC HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$7.50. FITTED WITH STEEL FRAMES



teeth are constructed on entirely new lines, and will be found invaluable in general cultivation.

The plows are the regular Planet, Jr., model and are continually valuable for furrowing, covering and plowing.

All Planet, Jr., Wheel Hoes are fitted with Steel Frames.

PLANET, JR., No. 17 SINGLE WHEEL HOE, CULTIVATOR AND PLOW. PRICE, \$4.50. FITTED WITH STEEL FRAME.

For easy gardening, and the same time clean



and perfect gardening, the kind that will make your garden the talk of the neighborhood and cause your face to glow with honest pride, nothing is quite the equal of this No. 17 Single Wheel Hoe. It is suited to all kinds of garden cultivation and all garden crops. You can do more and better hoeing with it in one day than you can do in three days with a hand hoe. The No. 17 has a pair of 6-inch hoes, a plow and a set of cultivator teeth, and outfit sufficient for most garden work.

Other attachments can be added at any time.

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CROWN THE RATEKIN WAY

1,200 ACRES IN NURSERY STOCK

DIRECT FROM GROWER TO PLANTER

OUR NURSERY CATALOG IS FREE TO YOU.

Our Finely Illustrated Catalog of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Roses, Climbing Vines, etc., is now ready for mailing. Send us a postal and we will forward copy by return mail.

Our catalog is our only salesman. Planters of Nursery Stock everywhere are coming to realize that the best method of getting trees and plants is to send their orders directly to the nurserymen. In this way they get **BETTER TREES AND SAVE HALF THEIR MONEY**, for if you buy of tree agents or peddlers more than half the money you pay them goes to the agent himself, for wages, commissions, and expenses. This you save by buying direct from us, the grower and producer. If you wish to find the agent who sold to you, you cannot do so, but if you buy from us you can always find and reach us at the expense of a two cent stamp.

Shenandoah is situated in Southwestern Iowa, the garden spot of the West. Soil, climate and all conditions are the most favorable to the growing of nursery stock, producing that solid, firm texture of the wood, deep penetrating roots, and an abundance of strong fibrous roots, so necessary to the successful transplanting and future value of the trees.

Our stock is grown only for the planter. We do not job or wholesale out quantities, neither do we procure our stock from the market, buy inferior grades or cheap stock. We cannot afford to do this for the reason that the price of a tree is the smallest part of its cost by the time it comes into bearing. We have a reputation to uphold and we do not intend to ruin our business by the handling of inferior grades. Our stock is all improved upon by our special method of propagation and cultivation known as "**THE RATEKIN WAY.**" This tends to further develop both roots and body, enabling all stock to resist drought and unfavorable conditions to a remarkable degree.

EVERY SHIPMENT sent out by us IS ACCOMPANIED BY CERTIFICATE OF INSPECTION OF THE STATE ENTOMOLOGIST OF IOWA.

We use the greatest care possible to have all stock true to name, and should any prove not true, we stand ready to replace it free of charge, or to refund the purchase money. **GOOD STOCK, TRUE TO NAME, SOLD DIRECT TO PLANTER AT REASONABLE PRICES, IS OUR MOTTO**, and we want to assure one and all that if favored with your orders, it matters not how large or small they may be you can rely upon getting only first class stock, and that your orders will be handled and packed in the best possible manner for shipment.

RATEKIN PAYS THE FREIGHT OR EXPRESS anywhere in the United States on all orders for Fruit and Ornamental Trees amounting to \$10.00 or over, and on all orders for Shrubs, Climbing Vines, Roses, etc., amounting to \$5.00 or more.

Read our special freight prepayment offer in our Nursery Catalog.

Address all correspondence, orders and inquiries to

THE RATEKIN NURSERY COMPANY

Lock Box No. 126, **SHENANDOAH, IOWA.**

By our Special Whole Root Method

OUR LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT.

In connection with our Nurseries we have obtained the services of one of the most competent Landscape Architects in the country and stand ready to offer any suggestions, submit any designs relative to the beautification of home grounds and surroundings.

We will be very glad to confer with those associations or individuals who contemplate the laying out of cemeteries, public or private grounds, parks, school grounds, play grounds, home grounds, etc., and offer the services and advice of our Architect, who thoroughly understands the best manner of selecting and planting for most effective grouping and display.

Always address

RATEKIN NURSERY CO., Shenandoah, Ia.

OUR LAST WORD

Pen, Ink and Paper are not always at hand, but we want to hear from and help our customers, both old and new, in every possible way, and have left this page for you to "WRITE US A LETTER." Tell us what you want, and we will gladly help you, if we can.

Sincerely yours,

RATEKIN'S SEED HOUSE.

Your Name

Post Office

State

Date

THE RATEKIN NURSERY COMPANY
Lock Box No 126, SHENANDOAH, IOWA

OUR LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT

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RATEKIN NURSERY CO., Shenandoah, Ia.



Ratekin's Red River Special

A Creation of Nature, Found Purely by Accident, Amongst a Field of Early Ohios on our Potato Farms in the Famous Red River Valley.

Offered to the public after five years of careful breeding and scientific propagation at our trial grounds, our stock having been grown in the heart of the Red River Valley, the very best potato district in the world. As heretofore stated this new Potato was found purely by accident and freak "Mother Nature" must be given due credit for its origination. The history may seem odd, perhaps romantic but nevertheless true. Five years ago the latter part of last June, while touring the country, inspecting crops, etc., I had occasion to visit the great Potato growing district of the Red River Valley.

Our farms there are situated in the western portion of Clay county, close to the boundary line, and in the heart of the Potato section. At the time of my visit Minnesota and the two Dakotas' were stricken with an early drought and the crops in general were not in the best of condition. Potatoes especially were affected and presented an unfavorable appearance as our foreman took me over the grounds. He stated however that he had something in the line of a "Freak" which he wanted me to examine, and sure enough, right at the top of a little knoll, like a Rose among the thorns, growing thrifty and luxuriant, was the future Parent of this new Potato—"RATEKIN'S RED RIVER SPECIAL."

To be sure I was interested and immediately gave the plant, this freak of freaks, a critical examination. It was right after blooming time and the little seed pods or balls were already formed. The plant presented the appearance of Potato vines grown under ideal conditions, and it was a mystery to me how this vine could appear so healthy and thrifty with the weather so unfavorable. It may be well for me to state that the seeds of the Potato are not the tubes at the base of the vine, as is generally supposed, but little roundish or slightly oval berries which form on the pistil of the flower or bloom. This fruit is of a green color or tinged with violet brown, and average about an inch in diameter. The pulp of this fruit is very acrid, of a green color, and I may add poisonous. The seeds are white, kidney shaped, and flat.

The tubers are commonly referred to as the seed, but they should be regarded as cuttings or sets. They are only swollen underground branches filled with starchy matter, the true seed forming on the pistil of the flower. This seed is never sown except for the producing of new varieties and seldom obtain full size until three years old. Realizing this and also that "Like Produces Like," I gave strict instructions to the grower and advised him to test out the seed in the trial grounds. Luck was with us and out of a dozen seeds planted we obtained one true vine which we propagated from by placing the tubers in a hot-bed without cutting them, and as soon as the sprouts were well furnished with roots, they were broken off at the surface of the Potato below the roots and planted separately in pots. By this process, altho tedious, we were able to breed up a goodly quantity of plants, the tubers of which were planted last spring covering about five acres. We offer these tubers to our customers the coming season.

DISCRIPTION OF RATEKIN'S RED RIVER SPECIAL

***The Hardest, Most Vigorous, Most Productive,
and the Best in Table Qualities of all Potatoes***

The vines are strong, with exceptionally luxuriant, deep green foliage, making a healthy vigorous growth when all other varieties are cut down by drought or blight. The tubers are of good size, lie closely in the hill and are ready for table use in six weeks from planting. They are similar to the Ohio in shape, with small eyes and there is but little waste when paring. The skin is thin, smooth and of a snowy whiteness. The table quality is of the choicest, the flesh being pure white, dry and floury. It cooks quickly and has a delicious flavor. All in all it is the very best Potato we have ever grown or tested and we urge our customers to give it a thorough trial.

For early market or table use it has no equal.

PRICE—While they last.—**Postpaid**, Per lb. 40c, 3 lbs. for \$1.00. By express or freight purchasers expense. Peck, \$1.75; ½ bu., \$3.00; bushel, \$5.00.

EVERYTHING FOR THE FARM AND GARDEN.

Ratekin's Seeds

THE KEY TO THE HARVEST.



MUSKMELON - RATEKIN'S DELICIOUS.

RADISH-
IMPROVED
ICICLE.

TOMATO-
RATEKIN'S IMPROVED
BEAUTY.

THE THREE BEST
VEGETABLES FOR
HOME GARDEN

FOR COMPLETE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY
SEE VEGETABLE SEED DEPARTMENT.

SPECIAL OFFER

ONE PACKET EACH OF THE THREE
ABOVE VARIETIES

25¢

POSTPAID.

ONE OUNCE EACH

50¢

POSTPAID.

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SHENANDOAH, IOWA, U.S.A.

THE LARGEST MAIL ORDER SEED HOUSE IN THE WEST.